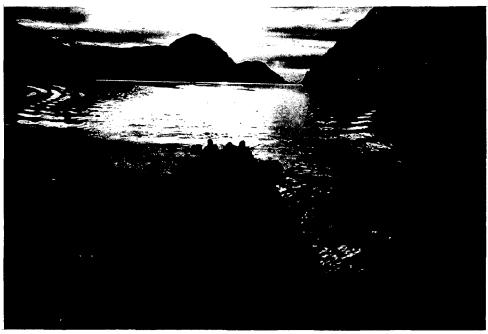
**REVISED** 

# SITKA DISTRICT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

**COASTAL ZONE** 

**INFORMATION CENTER** 



PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT

Significant Amendment -- July, 1990 Draft



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# City and Borough of Sitka

304 LAKE STREET SITKA, ALASKA 99835

The Sitka District Coastal Management Program invites you to read and comment on this Public Hearing Draft of the Sitka Public Use Management Plan. The Plan is being proposed as a Significant Amendment to the Sitka Coastal Management Program by the Coastal Management Citizens Committee.

The Committee initially recommended its development during the revision of the Sitka District Program in 1987 to provide special management policies for specific geographic locations considered as uniquely significant recreational and subsistence use areas. The Citizens Committee reconvened in spring, 1990, to develop criteria for selection of these sites, to make a preliminary selection of sites, and to recommend policies to address management concerns.

The proposed policies are the major component of the Public Use Management Plan, in that they will provide both management guidelines and enforceable policies to all the land and water management agencies with jurisdiction over the special management sites. You are especially encouraged to comment on the proposed or additional policies and recommend other areas in the Sitka Coastal District which you believe meet the test for "uniqueness" under the criteria for selection as special management sites, as well as a thorough explanation or justification of the proposal. Your comments will assist the Citizens Committee in making final recommendations for the Public Use Management Plan.

Your comments are important to us. Please make them in writing to:

Marlene Campbell, Coastal District Coordinator City and Borough of Sitka 304 Lake Street Sitka, Alaska 99835.

Please send a copy of your comments to:

US Department of Commerce NOAA Coastal Services Center Library 2234 South Hobson Avenue Charleston, SC 29405-2413

Joaqlin Estus
Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination
P.O. Box AW
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0165.

The review comment period closes October 5, 1990. Please submit your comments on or before this date. Public meetings to discuss the Public Use Management Plan will also be held in September in Sitka, Pelican, Tenakee, Angoon, Petersburg, Kake, and Port Alexander if there is sufficient public interest. Exact dates have not yet been scheduled. Additional single copies of the Public Hearing Draft are also available at the Sitka Planning Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Campbell at 747-5500 ext. 129, or Joaqlin Estus at 465-3562. Thank you.

Stuart Denslow

Michael Schmidt, Chairman Coastal Management Citizens Committee

Marlene Campbell, Coastal Management Coordinator

## Revised

# SITKA DISTRICT COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

# PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Significant Amendment - July, 1990 Draft

# Public Hearing Draft

Approval to Disseminate Public Hearing Draft by:

Coastal Management Citizens Committee City and Borough of Sitka Assembly May 24, 1990 June 26, 1990

Public Hearing Draft Comment Period:

August 6 to October 5, 1990

Prepared by:

City and Borough of Sitka Planning Department 304 Lake Street Sitka, AK 99835 907-747-5500 With the assistance of: Marlene A. Campbell, Sitka District Coastal Management Coordinator



# 1990 CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA ASSEMBLY

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# 1990 COASTAL MANAGEMENT CITIZENS COMMITTEE

**MEMBERS**:

REPRESENTING:

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Ed Oetken
Ann Lowe
Tim Ryan
Steve Merli
Dick Dapcevich
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John Sherrod

Alaska Native Brotherhood/Sisterhood
Alaska Pulp Corporation
Fisheries
Sitka Chamber of Commerce (Sitka Sound Seafoods)
Sitka Conservation Society
Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee
Sitka Planning Commission
Sitka Sportsman's Association
U. S. Forest Service

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Cover Photo Courtesy of Colleen Pellett

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### A. OVERVIEW - SUMMARY

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the reactivated Coastal Management Citizens Committee is to identify the MOST UNIQUE, SITE-SPECIFIC recreation and/or subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District outside the Sitka road system, and to propose management guidelines and/or enforceable policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts, consistent with the regulatory authorities of the land and water management agencies.

PRODUCT: A Public Use Management Plan for the selected unique recreational and subsistence use areas which will provide assistance to all management agencies in determining what uses and activities are considered appropriate for these specific locations. The Committee has developed preliminary sites and policies for a Public Hearing Draft, which will complete a formal public hearing process. The Committee will review the public comments, revise the document, and submit it to the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly for Concept Approval. The Concept Approved Draft will be distributed for future public comment; Alaska Division of Governmental Coordination will prepare Findings and Conclusions, and finally, Alaska Coastal Policy Council approval will be sought as a significant amendment to the Sitka Coastal Management Program.

PURPOSE: The Coastal Management Program recognizes the authorities of all land and water management entities and provides a vehicle for all agencies to work together to achieve cooperative land and water management solutions for truly unique recreational and subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION AS UNIQUE, SITE-SPECIFIC RECREATION AND SUBSISTENCE AREAS WITHIN THE SITKA COASTAL DISTRICT FOR INCLUSION IN THE "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS" IN THE PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

- Site receives intensive public use for recreational and/or subsistence purpose.
- Site is a developed or designated recreational facility (e.g., cabin, hot springs, trail, marine park).
- 3. Site has rare physical, geological, geothermal, or cultural resources for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., hot springs, popular sandy beach, waterfall or other unusual attraction, culturally significant subsistence site).
- 4. Site has major concentration of scarce or unique biological resource for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., only known concentration of razor clams in District).

## B. BACKGROUND

Sitka's isolated location on the seaward side of the Alexander Archipelago forms an independent and outdoors-oriented community where public lands and waters are heavily utilized for both recreation adjacent to the Sitka road system and for more disbursed recreation. In addition, traditional and customary "subsistence" uses of the coastal area form a major social and cultural way of life possibly more noted in Sitka than in the other larger communities of Southeast Alaska. These recreational and subsistence resources within the entire City and Borough are also utilized by other communities and individuals from both within and outside the District.

The lands and waters of the Sitka City and Borough fall under local, state and federal management jurisdictions, with the potential for competing uses and activities. Many government decisions in the past decade which affect the public lands of the Tongass National Forest have placed increasing pressures on uses and activities within the remaining areas. An example is the designation of the West Chichagof/Yakobi Wilderness Area and the South Baranof Wilderness Area by the United States Congress under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This designation removed 28.6 percent of the total land area of the City and Borough of Sitka for major land use activity and development. This places increased conflict potential on the remaining acreage.

Within the Sitka roaded areas, the <u>Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan</u>, adopted in 1981 and extensively revised in 1989, provides a comprehensive inventory and recommendations on community-wide parks and recreational opportunities. The Plan is still in the revision process, in need of updating and expansion to make it a more effective tool for the wise management and use of the lands and waters in the Sitka community area. This revision should be completed during 1990.

#### C. HISTORY

In 1987, the Coastal Management Citizens Committee sought to develop policies relating the specific areas of the City and Borough heavily used for recreational purposes, or areas where development could result in major use conflicts with recreational or subsistence users, but there was no comprehensive, Borough-wide information base available to identify these areas or conflicts. Therefore, in conjunction with the Citizens Committee's draft revision of the Sitka District Program, it was recommended a data base be developed using available agency resources where possible to assess prime recreational use areas throughout the District, as well as existing and potential conflicting uses of those areas; and second, that a Recreation Management Plan be developed as a further amendment to the Sitka District Program. This amendment would provide management guidelines to all levels of government with jurisdiction over the lands and waters of the District to assist in land use decision making.

The City and Borough began addressing these needs in 1988. The Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee, a standing committee reporting to the Sitka Assembly, began an update and revision of the Sitka Parks and Recreation Plan dealing with recreational uses and activities near or on the Sitka road system. Since the primary focus of this revision is to deal with recreation development on lands under direct municipal jurisdiction, rather than focusing on multi-governmental jurisdictions, the Parks and Recreation Plan update will not be incorporated as an amendment to the Sitka District Program. However, it will be consistent with the District Program.

#### D. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN

With funding from the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the assistance of a consultant, a preliminary data base about the coastal area of the District was developed in 1988 using available agency information, as Phase I of a two phase project to develop a Recreation Management element to the District Program. This data included identification of areas receiving recreational use, identification of appropriate levels of study of those areas, determination of agency involvement and roles in the project, and data compilation from agencies. Data gaps and additional research and information needs have also been identified.

Phase II involved some on-site assessment and analysis of major recreational and subsistence use areas in the District, completion of the data base, and development of the Recreation Management Plan. During this process, it was determined that the plan would address not only recreation management but also subsistence issues and other use conflicts on public lands. Therefore, the title of the Plan, proposed as a significant amendment to the Revised Sitka District Approved Coastal Management Program, was changed to "Public Use Management Plan".

The purpose of a comprehensive, District-wide Public Use Management Plan as an integral part of the Sitka Coastal Management Program is to identify the most unique, site-specific recreation and/or subsistence use areas within the Sitka Coastal District outside the Sitka road system, and to develop management guidelines and/or enforceable policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts, consistent with the regulatory authorities of the land and water management agencies.

The preliminary data gathering phase of this project was completed in the spring of 1988, in cooperation with appropriate state and federal agencies. Due to the multipurpose scope of the project and various management authorities, the municipality sought staff liaison support from the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Natural Resources — both Land and Water and Parks Divisions, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other relevant agencies, to assist with the development of the Plan.

The general geographic areas of the Borough which receive recreational were identified, and the various levels of study feasible were established. The District was divided into areas closest to the Sitka road system which receive heavy recreational use, radiating outward into the more remote areas of the Borough which receive less to little recreational use. Financial realities as well as geography, open water areas, and the limited data available from agencies placed certain limitations on the complexity and completeness of the study. Existing data base materials from agencies were identified, and additional information has been developed where necessary on a site-specific basis.

Major recreation-related uses and activities which occur throughout the District which would be an integral part of a Public Use Management Plan have been identified. This includes, but is not limited to, major anchorages, recreational beaches, recreation sites, major hunting and fishing areas which relate to specific coastal locations, U.S. Forest Service beach cabin locations, sites which provide sole source of access to other upland locations, areas of recreation concentration due to specific subsistence, species or habitat locations, and beach trailhead locations.

Major uses and activities which could conflict with recreational uses and activities throughout the District, as well as key conflict areas, were also identified. Some potentially conflicting uses include, but are not limited to, subsistence uses, coastal development activities, fish and seafood industry activities, timber uses, and archeological sites.

At its March 13, 1990 meeting, the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka voted unanimously to reappoint the members of the Coastal Management Citizens Committee to assist in the development of the Public Use Management Plan. Since the original Citizens Committee conceived the need for this focus and developed the entire policy base for the revised Sitka District Coastal Program, the Sitka Assembly agreed it would be desirable to involve the same groups and as many of the dedicated individuals who previously represented them as possible. This ongoing participation insured that the goals previously set by the Committee for development of the Plan could be achieved and consistency with the District Program assured.

Membership of the volunteer Coastal Management Citizens Committee was made up of representatives of the following broad-based community groups: Alaska Native Brotherhood and Sisterhood, Alaska Pulp Corporation, Sitka Chamber of Commerce, Sitka Conservation Society, Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee, Sitka Planning Commission, Sitka Sportsmen Association, U. S. Forest Service, and Fisheries in general. The Committee met almost weekly over the next three months to develop criteria for and make a preliminary selection of the most unique recreation and subsistence use areas in the Sitka District. They developed boundaries for these specific sites and developed enforceable policies to provide management guidelines for these "Special Management Areas". These policies are consistent with, and comprise an addition to, the overall goals and policies of the Sitka Coastal Management Program. The committee approved the proposed sites, boundapolicies for presentation to the Sitka Assembly on and May 24, 1990.

These preliminary sites and policies were approved for dissemination by the Sitka Assembly at its June 26, 1990 meeting as part of the Public Hearing Draft of the Public Use Management Plan. The Public Hearing Draft will be widely disseminated to communities, agencies, and the public at large for a sixty-day public review process. Included in this process will be public meetings to be scheduled in Sitka, Pelican, Tenakee Springs, Angoon, Kake, Petersburg, and Port Alexander in September, 1990, prior to the close of the comment period

October 5, 1990. An agency meeting is also planned for August, 1990, to review and comment on the Draft.

The Citizens Committee expressed concerns about maintaining the "viewshed" in especially scenic areas and in areas of major recreational use, such as the major transportation corridor into Sitka via Peril Strait and Sitka Sound. Both areas are extensively travelled by pleasure and commercial vessels and small planes, as well as large cruise ships. The committee was not able to develop a Visual Resources Management Plan due to the extensive amount of time it expended on site selection and policy development for the Public Use Plan. If public input is sufficient to support the development of policies relating to visual resources management, this issue will be addressed in the Concept Draft.

The Coastal Management Citizens Committee will reconvene in October, 1990, to review all the public comments and additional site suggestions. It will then make a final recommendation of sites and policies to the Sitka Assembly for the Concept Draft of the Public Use Management Plan. The Concept Draft, once approved, will be submitted to the Coastal Policy Council as a significant amendment to the Sitka Coastal Management Program in spring, 1991.

# II. UNIQUE RECREATIONAL AND/OR SUBSISTENCE USE AREAS OUTSIDE THE SITKA ROAD SYSTEM WITHIN THE SITKA COASTAL DISTRICT PROPOSED AS "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT SITES" FOR THE PUBLIC USE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT

# KRUZOF ISLAND AREA

Shelikof Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Shelikof Bay, Iris Meadows Fred's Creek Forest Service Cabin, Mt. Edgecumbe National Recreation Trail

St. Lazaria Island

Low Island

Brent's Beach Forest Service Cabin and Kamenoi Beach
Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park
Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Road to Gilmore Bay
Sealion Cove and Trail
Sinitsin Island

# WEST CHICHAGOF ISLAND WILDERNESS AREA

Leo Anchorage Sockeye Stream and Lake System
Suloia Lake Forest Service Cabin, Lake, Trail
Lake Anna Sockeye Stream and Lake System
Ford Arm Sockeye Stream and Lake System
Klag Bay Sockeye Stream and Lake System
Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands
Didrickson Trail
White Sulphur Hot Springs, Forest Service Cabin,
Dry Pass Trail System

Goulding Lakes Forest Service Cabin, Goulding Harbor, Trail, Lakes System

# EAST CHICHAGOF ISLAND AREA

# Kadashan Bay

Kook Lake Forest Service Cabin, Trail to Basket Bay and Kook Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Sitkoh Lake Forest Service Cabins, Trail to Sitkoh Bay, and Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Lisianski River Trail, North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats Moser Island Forest Service Cabin Site, Adjacent Seal Rookery

Patterson Bay Tideflats Fick Cove Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts Ushk Bay

# NORTH BARANOF ISLAND AREA

Siginaka Islands

Nakwasina Passage to head of Nakwasina Sound Fish Bay Hot Springs, Trail

Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park

Lake Eva Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Hanus Bay/Portage, Dead Tree Island

Kelp Bay Basin/Pond Island

Baranof Warm Springs Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Lake: Sadie Lake Trail

# SOUTH BARANOF ISLAND AREA

- Falls Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System Sashin Lake Trail Redfish Bay Sockeye Stream and Lake System
- \* Port Banks ,
- \* Plotnikof Lake Forest Service Cabin
- \* Davidof Lake Forest Service Cabin; Trail
- \* Avoss Lake Forest Service Cabin
- \* Yamani Cove/Islets; Slate Islets and Guibert Islets
- Secluded Bay/Benzeman Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Goddard Hot Springs, Kolosh Island, Trail to Redoubt Lake Redoubt Lake Forest Service Cabin; Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Taigud Islands

Kidney Cove

West Redoubt Bay Islets

Pirate's Cove, Sam Sing Cove, Three Entrance Bay

Salmon Bay, Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail

## III. PROPOSED POLICIES FOR SPECIAL MANAGEMENT SITES

The following are <u>draft</u> policies developed by members of the Coastal Management Citizens Committee. They are in no particular order and have been modified somewhat to utilize enforceable language. Words like "recommend" are not enforceable, and agencies are under no obligation to consider such policies or recommendations unless they are included as part of approved enforceable policies, under the Alaska Coastal Management Program. These policies apply only to those unique sites within the Sitka Coastal District specifically listed as "special management sites" within the Public Use Management Plan.

- 1. Tideland uses shall be compatible with the recreation nature of the upland use at public cabin and trailhead "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan.
- 2. A minimum "no development" buffer of 100 feet shall be retained on each side of the bank of all sockeye streams listed as "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan, as well as a 100 foot buffer from the lakeshore landward around these sockeye system lakes, in order to protect the sockeye resource. If a stream-by -stream review is conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the buffer may be adjusted to protect and perpetuate both the passage and spawning areas on these streams.
- 3. U.S. Forest Service cabins on lakes shall be managed for recreation and conflicting uses not permitted, with the entire lake and a 200 foot "buffer strip" around the lake shore included in the boundaries of the "special management sites".
- 4. The U.S. Forest Service is encouraged to review each U.S. Forest Service cabin site in terms of actual use and accessibility to the public, and if use is extremely limited, to consider relocating the cabin to a more practical location to permit increased public use.
- 5. Existing Forest Service road systems should be reviewed and, where practical, maintained for long-term continued use for diverse recreation (e.g., hiking, ATV use, biking).
- 6. Floating facilities (as defined in the Enforceable Policies section of Coastal Development, page 39, of the Sitka Revised Coastal Program) shall be prohibited within the boundaries of "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan except for the maintenance of the recreation and/or subsistence resources within the "special management sites." Exceptions to this policy may be made only after a consistency review process determines that there is greater public benefit by permitting a use (e.g., temporary moorage of a fish buying scow) in a specific "special management site" than the public benefit accrued by protecting the "special management site" exclusively for recreation and/or subsistence uses.

- 7. In areas where ATV recreation use exists on National Forest road systems receiving timber harvest activity, signs should be posted at intensively used road access points to alert users to possible safety conflicts.
- 8. Lakes included in the "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan should be reviewed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game for fishing opportunities, and if practical and desirable, stocked to expand the recreational potential at these sites.
- 9. A "buffer strip" of 100 feet shall be left on either side of all trails listed in "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan, for the protection of the trail and of the recreational experience. If it is necessary to impact the trail, it should be relocated where the buffer can be maintained. Where feasible and prudent, all viewpoints, scenic areas, and other unique recreational features of the trail shall be protected.
- 10. No ATV use is permitted on "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan, including trails, except where an actual need is demonstrated. Exceptions to this policy will include those areas such as the Kruzof Island road system and Kidney Cove road system traditionally used by ATV's, where use is common and resource damage is not occurring.
- ll. Where feasible and prudent, all land- and water-based uses which conflict with the management of the "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan be prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, special use permits for structures (temporary or permanent) except for public use facilities; permits for beach or water storage of logs or equipment; mariculture permits of any type, including temporary uses such as herring pounds; and all floating facilities, other than for short term, temporary use as detailed under Policy 6. This policy does not preclude the development of transportation facilities when a need is shown and proper evaluation, including a formal public process, has been completed.
- 12. Unless otherwise identified in the boundary maps of the "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan, all sites encompassing tidelands shall have as an upper boundary a minimum of 200 feet shoreward from Mean High Tide as a buffer along the contiguous upper beach, and extend seaward from Mean Low Tide line a minimum of 200 feet.
- 13. Unless otherwise identified in the boundary maps of the "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan, all Forest Service cabin sites shall include a minimum boundary of 200 feet around the cabin.

#### SITE-SPECIFIC POLICIES

- 1. The "special management site" of Iris Meadows in the Public Use Plan shall be closed to ATV use and the meadow ecosystem protected. ATV's shall be permitted only on the existing road system and designated trails, and in designated areas where resource damage will not occur or is acceptable. Stream crossings will be permitted only in designated locations.
- 2. The boundary for the Iris Meadows/Shelikof Forest Service Cabin "special management site" in the Public Use Plan shall be along the toe of the Meadow (boardered in part by the road along the eastern side of the Meadow) and from Point Mary in a direct line to the point of land below Port Mary, as detailed in the boundary map.
- 3. The boundary for the Kamenoi Beach and Brents Beach "special management sites" in the Public Use Plan shall be one integrated boundary from Point Brown to Mountain Point, as well as general boundaries specified above (200 feet above Mean High Tide; 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide, and 200 feet around the cabin).
- 4. No consensus was reached on whether or not to include Kadashan Bay, Patterson Bay, and Sitkoh Bay in the "Special Management Sites." The inclusion of these sites and their boundaries will be determined based on public input.

# IV. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT SITE DESCRIPTIONS AND BOUNDARIES

The following are descriptions and proposed boundaries for those areas identified by the Coastal Management Citizens Committee for possible inclusion in the unique recreation and subsistence management sites in the Sitka Public Use Management Plan. They are grouped by the following general geographic areas, radiating out from Sitka in a counterclockwise direction:

Kruzof Island Area West Chichagof Island Wilderness Area East Chichagof Island Area North Baranof Island Area South Baranof Island Area.

The Citizens Committee developed criteria to measure whether or not any recreational and/or subsistence use area within the Sitka Coastal District should be managed with special priority for recreational and subsistence uses. There are many areas throughout the District used for recreation and subsistence, but the Committee's mission statement was to identify only the most unique, site-specific recreational/subsistence use areas within the Sitka District outside the Sitka road system (which is managed with the assistance of the Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee), and to propose management guidelines and/or enforceable policies for these areas to maintain existing uses and limit use conflicts. Obviously, any management guidelines or policies must be consistent with the regulatory authorities of the land and water management agencies.

Each site proposed for inclusion as a special management site must meet one or more of the criteria, in order to keep the Public Use Management Plan focused on those areas that are most deserving of special management to insure that traditional recreational and subsistence uses can continue. Any dilution of the criteria to add sites which do not meet the test of uniqueness will be indefensible to the management agencies responsible for these public lands. Therefore, one or more of the following criteria must be met to be included in the Sitka Coastal District Public Use Plan "Special Management Sites":

- Site receives intensive public use for recreational and/or subsistence purposes.
- Site is a developed or designated recreational facility (e.g., cabin, hot springs, trail, marine park).
- Site has rare physical, geological, geothermal, or cultural resources for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., hot springs, popular sandy beach, waterfall or other unusual attraction, culturally significant subsistence site).
- 4. Site has major concentration of scarce or unique biological resource for recreation and/or subsistence uses (e.g., only known concentration of razor clams in District).

When describing the proposed "Special Management Sites", it should be understood that nearly all the locations have opportunities for fishing and deer hunting, so these uses are listed only when there is intensity of use, substantial concentration of a resource, or other special features contributing to recreation and/or subsistence uses of the area. Nearly all sites listed may have bears present, and this should be understood as a "given" when considering any area.

Descriptions of the Forest Service cabins and trails have been excerpted from the Forest Service brochure on Sitka and Hoonah Area Cabins and the Sitka Trails Recreation Opportunity Guide prepared by the Sitka Ranger District. Staff of the Sitka office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have also provided substantial information about the fish and game resources of the proposed sites. Sites within federally mandated Wilderness Areas are identified by an asterisk (\*).

Shelikof Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Shelikof Bay, Iris Meadows Fred's Creek Forest Service Cabin, Mt. Edgecumbe National Recreation Trail

St. Lazaria Island

Low Island

Brent's Beach Forest Service Cabin and Kamenoi Beach Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass; Road to Gilmore Bay Sealion Cove and Trail

Sinitsin Island

# KRUZOF ISLAND AREA

#### Shelikof Trail, Forest Service Cabin, Shelikof Bay, Iris Meadows

The Shelikof Forest Service Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-frame located about 20 miles northwest of Sitka on Shelikof Bay. It is accessible by helicopter or a 7 mile hike from Mud Bay along the Kruzof Island Road #7590. The cabin is the only one in the District on the outer coast with a large sandy beach fringed by small islands with fascinating tidepools accessible at low tide. There is salmon fishing, including large numbers of coho, in Iris Meadows Creek, sandy beaches for beachcombing and walking, and wonderful views of wild iris (in June and July) and wildlife in Iris Meadows.

No anchorage is available near the Shelikof Cabin, and many users reach the cabin by anchoring in Mud Bay and taking the former logging road west to the Port Mary Trail, a National Forest System Trail. The 1.3 mile trail begins at the foot bridge at Iris Meadows and borders the western portion of the meadows just inside the timber and then continues west through the spruce and hemlock forest and ends at the Shelikof Cabin. The main trail, the former logging road built in the early 1970's, curves to the south through spruce-hemlock forest and some regeneration areas and ends on a clearcut bluff overlooking the beaches of Port Mary. The Mud Bay Road (Kruzof Island Road 7590) is heavily used by recreational vehicles, and considerable hunting of deer and bear is done utilizing the road system. The Iris Meadows, cabin, and beach area are relatively flat and exceptionally scenic and receive intensive picnicking, hiking, camping, and other recreational uses.

## Boundaries:

100 feet to either side of the former logging road from Mud Bay and along the south spur road to Port Mary; along the beach to 200 feet shoreward from Mean High Tide to the southern end of Port Mary, in a direct line to the point between Goletta and Cuvacan Coves, along the outer fringe of Iris Meadows generally bordered by the roads.

# Fred's Creek Forest Service Cabin, Mt. Edgecumbe National Recreation Trail

Fred's Creek Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-frame located on the southeast shore of Kruzof Island. It is one of the few cabins located on salt water. Both it and the trail are accessible by boat, but there is no protected anchorage. Beachcombing, open ocean views, and hunting are common uses, and there is steelhead fishing in Fred's Creek in the spring.

The 6.7 mile Mt. Edgecumbe National Forest System Trail begins at Fred's Creek Cabin in a Sitka spruce flat, heads west, and gradually rises while running through several miles of muskeg alternating with forest. About three miles up the trail at 700 foot elevation, a spur leads to a trail shelter. About a mile further, the trail steepens considerably to timberline at about 2,000 feet, where the trail ends. Above this, the ground is covered by red volcanic ash up to the summit of Mount Edgecumbe volcano. The vista from the summit is spectacular on a clear day.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 200 feet shoreward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide along contiguous beach; 100 feet along each side of trail.

#### St. Lazaria National Wildlife Refuge

St. Lazaria is a small island group of about 65 acres one mile south of Kruzof Island with an exceptionally large sea bird colony, composed primarily of storm petrels, auklets, and murres.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide around St. Lazaria Island.

## Low Island

Low Island is east of Shoal's Point off Kruzof Island in Sitka Sound. It is barely above sea level, is pounded by surf, has no folliage, and is surrounded by shallows and kelp beds. It is a traditional sealing area, and has a concentration of sea otters in the shallows.

#### Boundaries:

Entire island to 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide.

#### Brent's Beach Forest Service Cabin and Kamenoi Beach

Brent's Beach Cabin is a 12x14 foot cabin located 15 miles southwest of Sitka on Kruzof Island. It is accessible by float plane and boat with good anchorage in Crab Bay. There is a white sandy beach, and access to Kamenoi Beach to the south and caves and lava domes 10 minutes north of the cabin.

Kamenoi Beach has the only large known concentration of razor clams accessible to clam diggers in the entire Sitka District. The boundary of this site has been extended north to Point Brown to include the beaches to the north, which also receive heavy recreational use for picnicking, beachcombing, and sightseeing, as well as access to good deer and brown bear hunting.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 200 feet shoreward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide from Point Brown to Mountain Point.

# Magoun Islands/Port Krestof State Marine Park

The Magouns are an island group between Kruzof and Krestof Islands and between Sitka and Krestof Sounds, 12 miles northwest of Sitka. Access is by boat or floatplane to various anchorages. This 685-acre Marine Park consists of one larger and a dozen or so smaller islands with numerous scenic inland bays and waterways. The islands are heavily used by the residents of Sitka for clamming, crabbing, fishing, boating, sightseeing, and other recreational activities. The area is a popular overnight anchorage. The Magouns have the only anchorage in the area providing protection in all wind and sea conditions.

Port Krestof has very large, productive tideflats and is a valuable waterfowl habitat and staging area as well as a favorite sport fishing and crabbing area. As a newly selected State Marine Park, the area will not be subject to timber harvest, and recreation and habitat values will be maintained.

#### Boundaries:

Per Park boundaries, generally along section lines encompassing all of Port Krestof Tide Flats and the entire Magoun Island group.

#### Head of Krestof Sound through Dry Pass and Road to Gilmer Bay

This area is about 18 miles northwest of Sitka, with access by boat or floatplane. It includes very large, productive tideflats, unexcelled estuarine habitat, and narrow, very shallow Sukoi Strait between Kruzof and Partofshikof Islands. It has large concentrations of waterfowl and is heavily used by duck and deer hunters. The land is mostly level behind a wide beach. Eagle River is favored for coho fishing and has a small run of steelhead.

The south portion of the tideflats has a former timber transfer facility which is used for road access. The former logging road is extensively used by all terrain vehicles to cross Kruzof Island to the west. The road provides access to two unnamed lakes numbered 330 and 335, with good fishing for rainbows in 330. A channel between the two lakes provides ideal spawning and rearing for rainbows, which are small but plentiful.

#### Boundaries:

All contiguous tideflats through Dry Pass to 200 feet shoreward from Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide; 100 feet each side of former logging road to Gilmer Bay.

#### Sealion Cove and Trail

Sealion Cove is located on the northern outer coast of Kruzof Island. It is accessible by the Sealion Cove National Forest System Trail from Kalinin Bay, about 25 miles northwest of Sitka on the north side of Kruzof. Access to the trail is by boat or floatplane. The 2.5 mile trail begins at the southern end of Kalinin Bay and runs south along the western side of the estuary for about a half mile to a trail marker. The trail turns west up into the forest. There are several switchbacks along the steep trail, through a muskeg and along the north shore of an unnamed lake (#244), and drops into the Sealion Cove drainage. The lake has a sand bottom and is good for swimming, though very cold. A half mile from the beach, the trail skirts the northern side of a large marsh, and the last quarter mile is in old growth forests of Sitka spruce and hemlock which breaks out onto the northern end of the Cove. The trail is very scenic and fairly gradual.

There is a large beach fringe of timber and good deer hunting, as well as coho in the south stream. Sealion Cove has a mile-long white sandy beach and open surf. It is a beautiful, isolated place for beachcombing, exploring, camping, watching sea lions, and viewing the open Pacific Ocean. This area has been under federal ownership but has been selected by the State of Alaska for recreation purposes.

#### Boundaries:

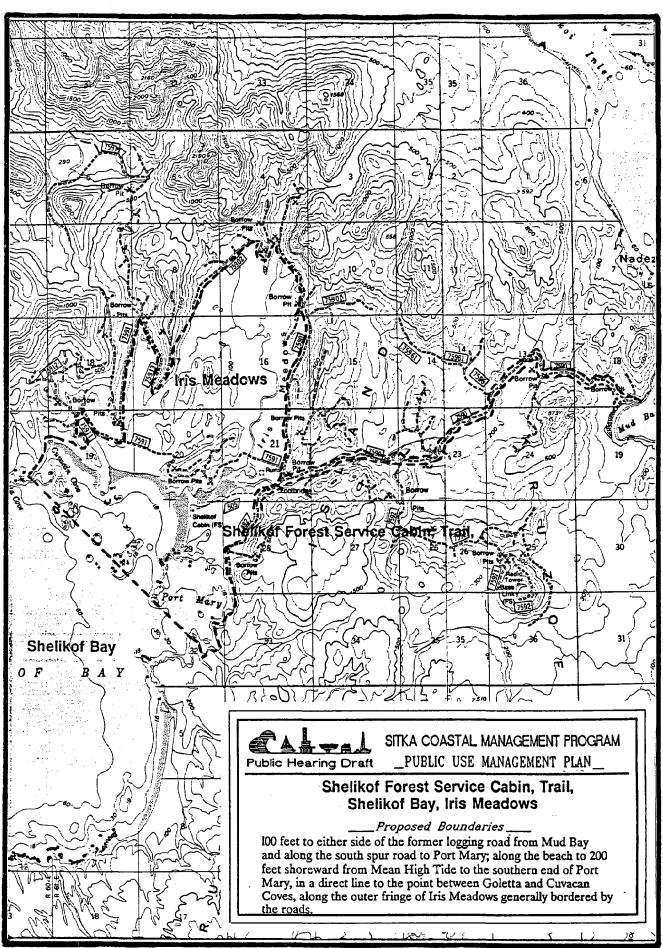
All beach area and 200 feet shoreward of Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide along entire Cove; 100 feet along each side of trail.

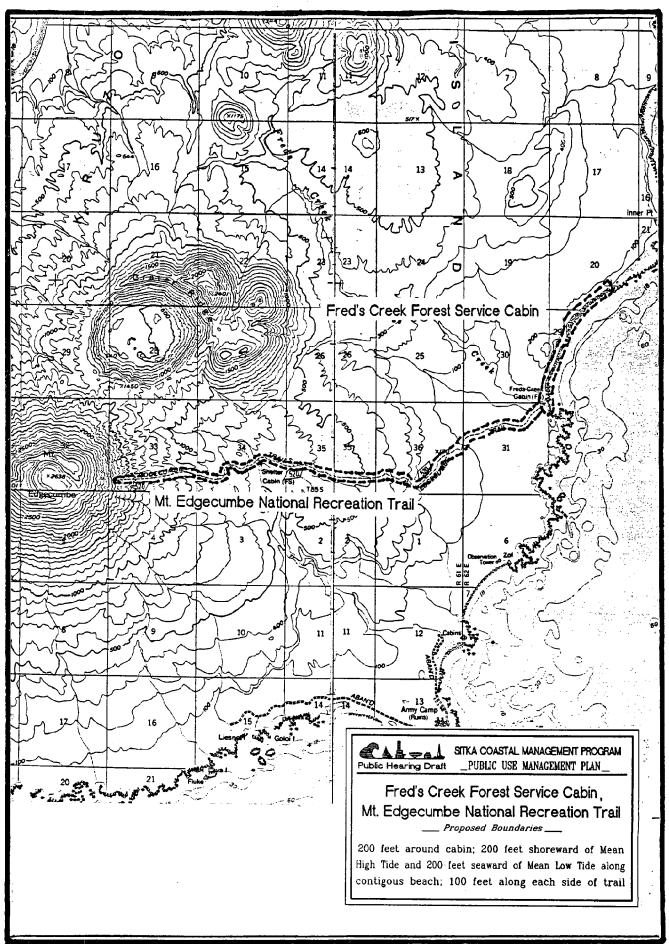
## Sinitsin Islands

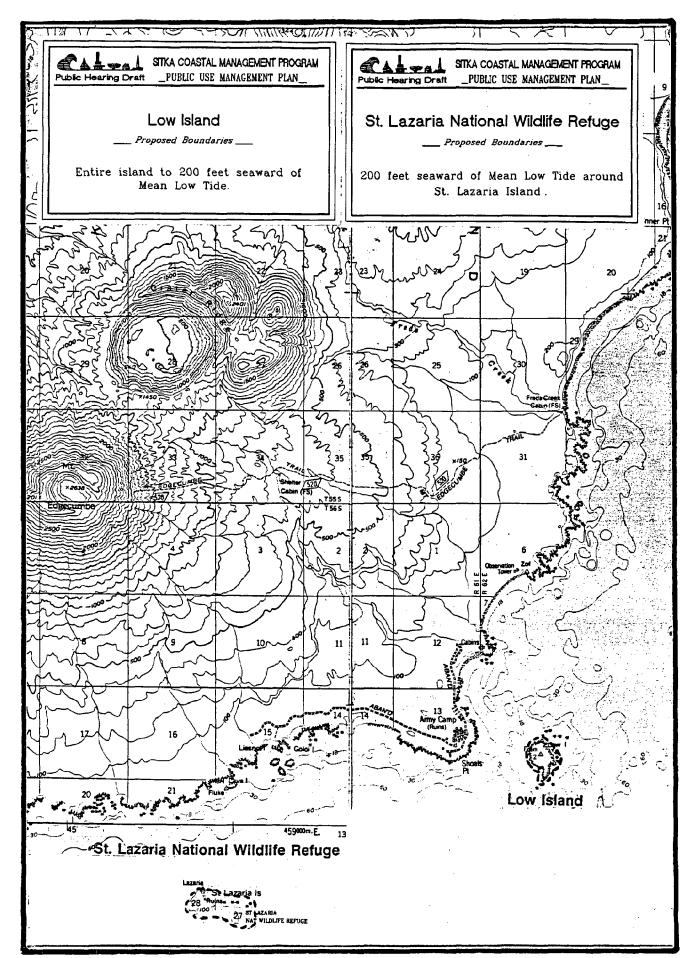
Sinitsin Islands are located just north of Kruzof Island. The intertidal area around Sinitsin Islands is an important subsistence area for black seaweed.

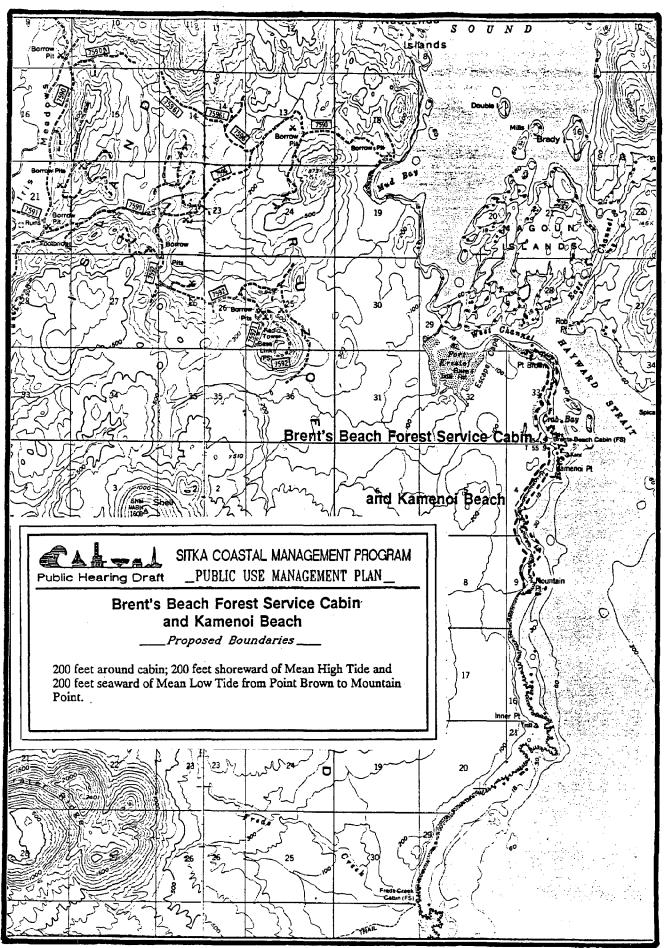
#### Boundaries:

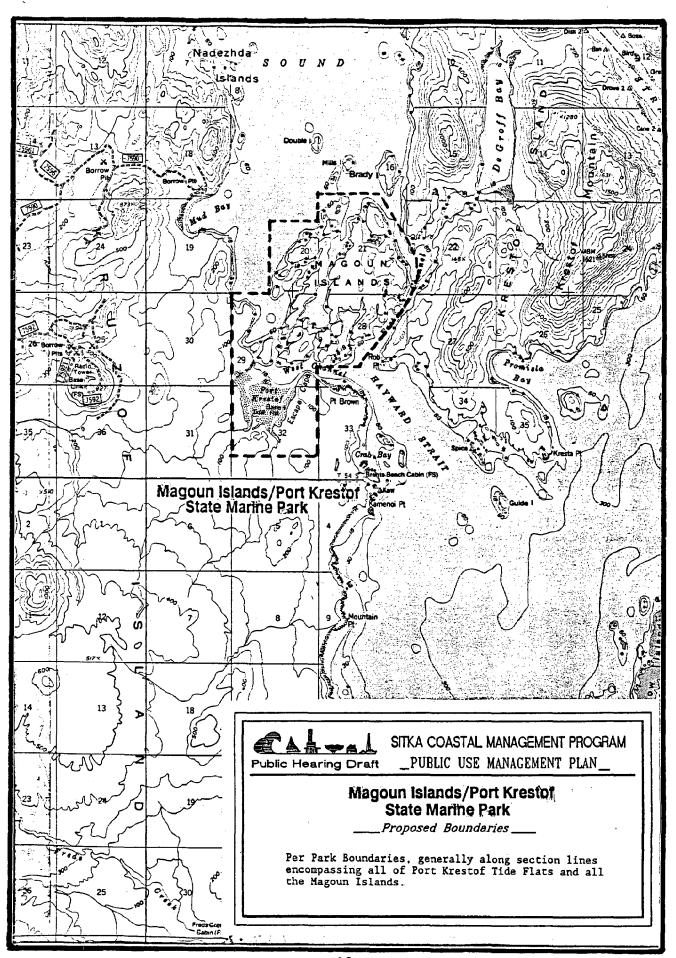
200 feet shoreward of Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide in all areas where black seaweed is gathered.

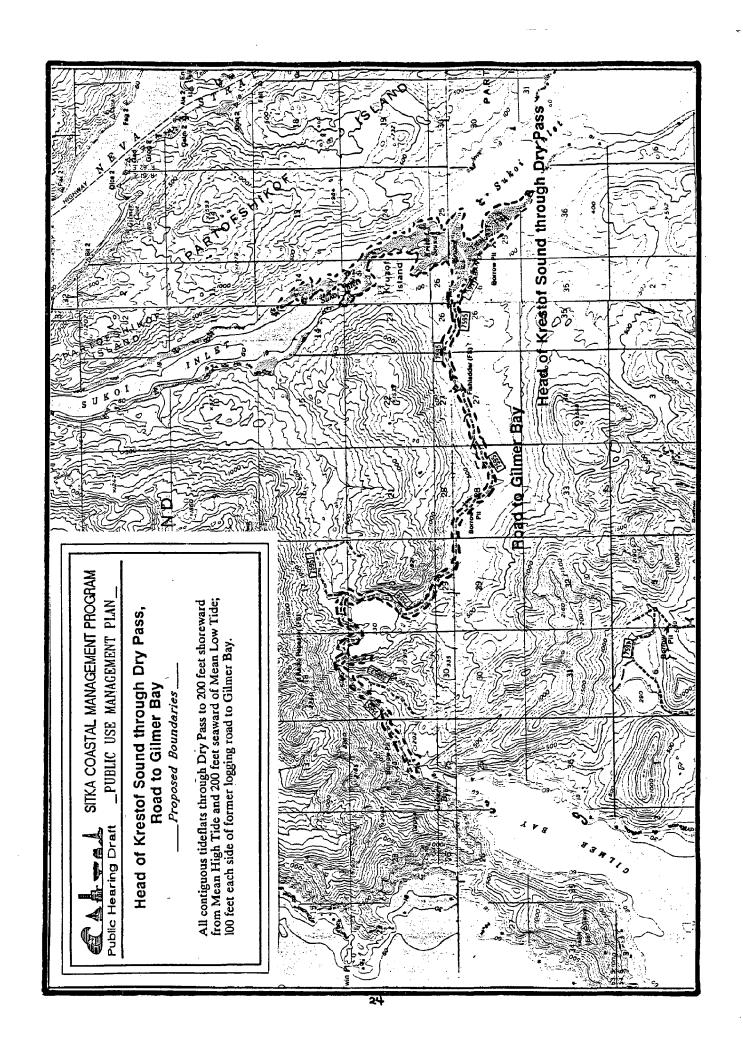


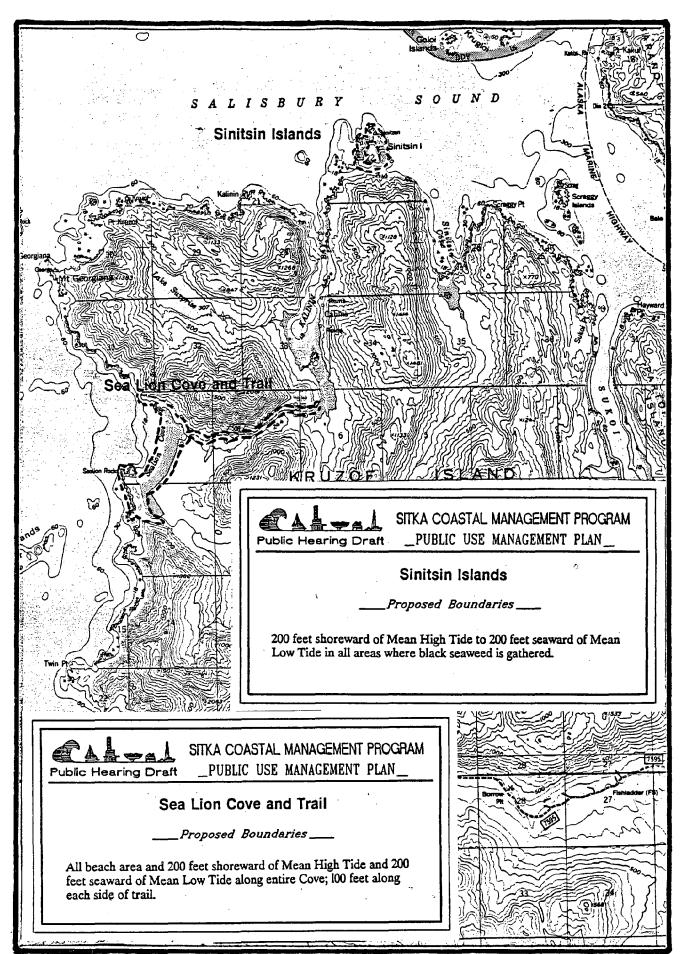












- \* Leo Anchorage Sockeye Stream and Lake System
- \* Suloia Lake Forest Service Cabin, Lake, Trail
- \* Lake Anna Sockeye Stream and Lake System
- \* Ford Arm Sockeye Stream and Lake System
- \* Klag Bay Sockeye Stream and Lake System
- \* Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands
- \* Didrickson Trail
- \* White Sulphur Hot Springs, Forest Service Cabin, Dry Pass Trail System
- \* Goulding Lakes Forest Service Cabin, Goulding Harbor, Trail, Lakes System

#### WEST CHICHAGOF ISLAND WILDERNESS AREA (\*)

#### \*Leo Anchorage Sockeye Stream and Lake System

This system is located on the northeast shore of Fortuna Strait northeast of Leo Anchorage. It has a very small run up the short stream into Lake Leo. The stream closes off periodically due to shifting sands, making it difficult for the sockeye to reach the lake. The run peaks around July 10.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; entire lake and 100 feet from lakeshore landward.

## \*Suloia Lake U.S. Forest Service Cabin, Lake, Trail

Suloia Lake is located 30 miles northwest of Sitka on the southeast side of West Chichagof Island, east of Suloia Bay, which in turn is east of the Sergius Narrows. The cabin is 12x14 foot and is accessible by floatplane. A boat is provided, and there is fair fishing in the lake for planted rainbow trout as well as Dolly Varden trout. There is good access to deer hunting.

The 1.1 mile unmaintained Suloia Lake National Forest System Trail begins at the head of the deep cove at the west side of Suloia Bay and runs up the north side of the stream through a wet open forested area, then breaks away from the stream and goes through areas of muskeg and marsh alternating with forest. The trail ends just north of the Lake's outlet but does not continue to the cabin, which would be difficult to bushwack to due to the steep terrain and stream crossings. The area around the end of the trail is steep and wet, and not suitable for camping.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of trail; all of Lake Suloia to 200 feet from lakeshore landward.

#### \*Lake Anna Sockeye Stream and Lake System

This system is located on the north end of Lake Anna, with a very small sockeye salmon run of less than 1,000 fish, running up a falls at salt water to an unnamed lake. The run peaks around July 10. The stream area is overgrown and difficult to sport fish.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; entire lake and 100 feet from lakeshore landward.

#### \*Ford Arm Sockeye Stream and Lake System

This system is located on the northeast shore of Ford Arm, with a small run of around 3,000 sockeye running to unnamed lake #43. It is an early system that peaks in mid-June. There is good trout fishing in the stream, with a run of large Dolly Varden trout and steelhead.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; entire lake and 100 feet from lakeshore landward.

#### \*Klag Bay Sockeye Stream and Lake System

This system is located on the eastern shore of Klag Bay. One of the more productive sockeye systems, there are escapements in excess of 5,000 fish from this very shallow chain of lakes. The run peaks around July 15-20. The creek is grassy and water relatively warm. There are also excellent runs of coho and cutthroat, Dolly Varden and rainbow trout.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream at salt water; 100 feet either side of streams; the entire lakes system and 100 feet from lakeshores landward.

#### \*Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands

The Myriad Islands and White Sisters Islands are situated on the outer coast of Chichagof Island on the open ocean, west of Ogden, Kukkan and Tawak Passages. The Myriads also have many accessible beaches and safe anchorages for small boats, providing unique opportunities for beachcombing and camping, and beautiful views of open ocean and abundant sea otter populations.

White Sisters Islands has one of only four concentrations of sea lions on the entire outer coast of the Sitka District. Although not a rookery (there are only two in Southeast Alaska, on Hazy Islands and Forrester Island, both National Wildlife Refuges), it is a very significant year-round haulout with up to 1,200 sea lions, by far the largest in the District. White Sisters is directly west of the Myriads.

#### Boundaries:

Entire island group to 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide.

#### \*Didrickson Trail

Didrickson Trail is a National Forest System Trail that runs 0.1 mile from Didrickson Bay to Didrickson Lake, directly east of Portlock Harbor. The trail is about 58 miles northwest of Sitka on Chichagof Island. Access is by boat or floatplane. The trail begins on the northeast side of Didrickson Bay, passes through scrub forest and muskeg, and ends at Didrickson Lake. It is a flat trail rated "Easy", but is muddy and very brushy. There is cutthroat trout fishing in Didrickson Lake.

#### Boundaries:

100 feet along each side of trail; entire Didrickson Lake to 200 feet from lakeshores landward.

## \*White Sulphur Hot Springs, Forest Service Cabin, Dry Pass Trail System

White Sulphur Springs Cabin is a 12x14 foot Pan-Abode located 65 miles northwest of Sitka. It is accessible by helicopter or boat and one-half to one hour hike on the trail from Mirror Harbor or 1 hour hike from Porcupine Bay. There are large salmon runs and good cutthroat fishing at Sea Level Slough, and trout in the lake near the cabin. Sea Level Slough is an important waterfowl nesting and resting area and good deer hunting. The cabin is adjacent to an extremely popular and rare developed hot springs with covered pool, ocean views, and easy hikes and beachcombing. There are beautiful ocean views on both the trail and at the cabin, including breakers crashing on rocky cliffs, as well as wide expanses of muskeg to explore.

Although not accessible at low tides, Mirror Harbor is an important foul-weather anchorage and a destination-oriented harbor for users of White Sulphur Springs. There is a reasonably extensive low-grade deposit of copper sulfide ore intermixed with sedimentary deposits of graywacke, and over 30 mining lode claims are registered in this area.

The White Sulphur Hot Springs National Forest System Trail begins at a marked trailhead at the northwestern bite of the Mirror Harbor's West Arm, where there is good anchorage once past the rocky entrance. It leads north through open forest and meadows over gently rolling terrain. About a fifth of a mile along the way the unmaintained trail to Dry Pass branches off to the right, and a short hike overland to the east leads to Sea Level Slough. A quarter mile beyond the branch, the trail begins paralleling the shore of Bertha Bay through spruce-hemlock forest and winds west to White Sulphur Springs, with a short spur to the right leading to White Sulphur Lake. The trail is flat and well maintained, and much of it is on boardwalk.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of trail; White Sulphur Lake and Sea Level Slough to 200 feet landward from shore.

## \*Goulding Lakes Forest Service Cabin; Goulding Harbor, Trail, Lakes System

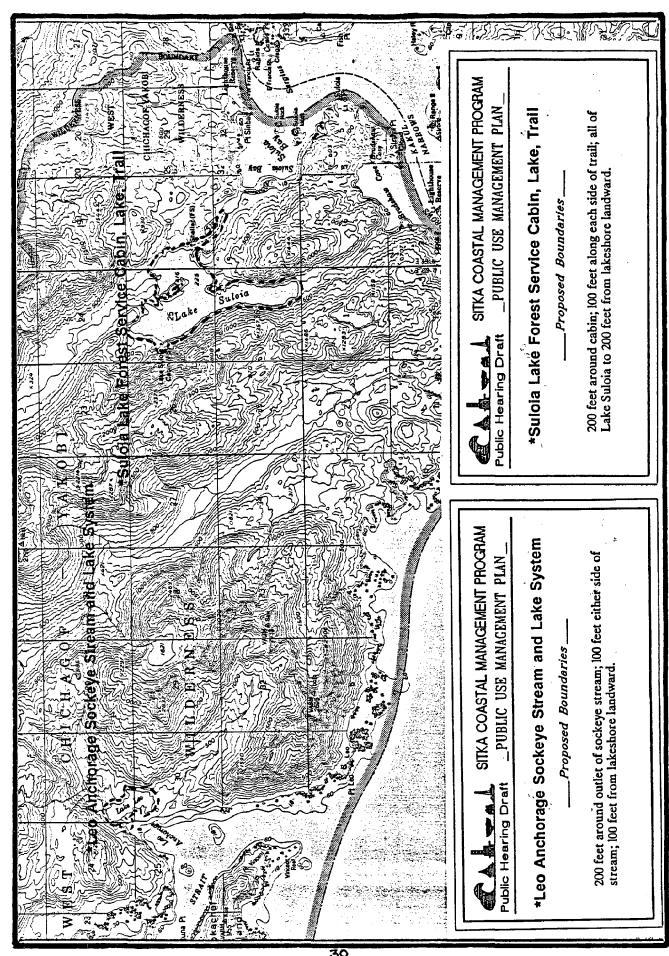
Goulding Lake Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-frame located at the northwest end of Otter Lake (west of Goulding Lake) 60 miles northwest of Sitka on Chichagof Island. It is accessible by floatplane, as the trail ends at the lowest Goulding Lake. There is good fishing for cutthroat trout in all the lakes, and Otter and Lower Otter Lakes connect. Steelhead also occur in this lake system. A boat is provided. The cabin is located in a beautiful area, and the surrounding mountains provide access into the alpine area with attendant opportunities for backcountry recreation.

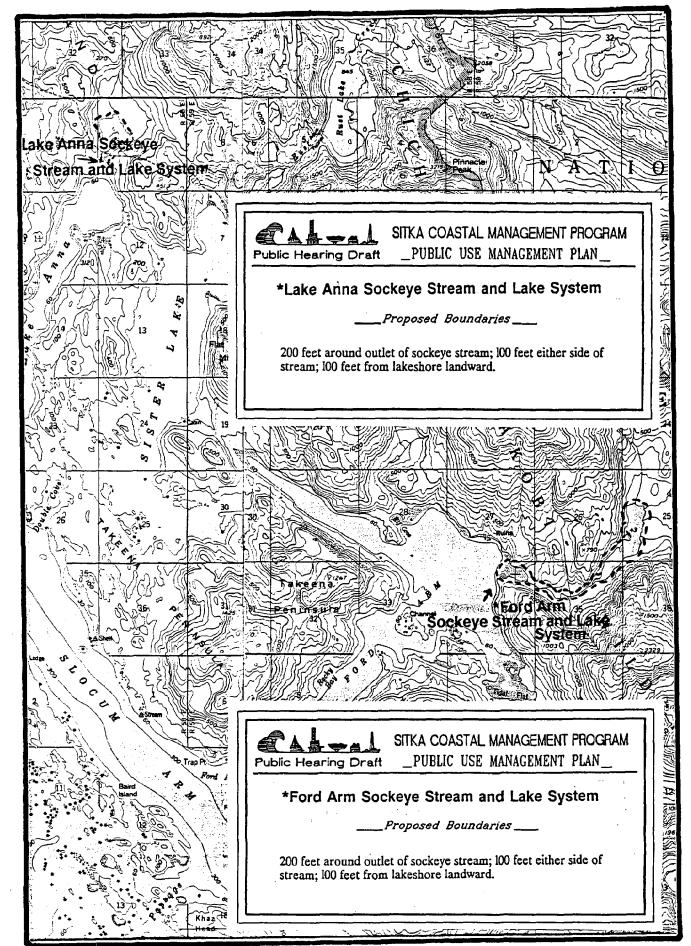
Goulding Harbor is a destination-oriented anchorage for recreation visitors to Goulding Falls, commercial fishermen, and other users. Good stands of timber occupy the visually sensitive foreground enclosing Goulding Harbor. The marked trailhead of Goulding Lake National Forest System Trail is on the northwest side of the inlet stream at the head of Goulding Harbor. The trail goes through spruce-hemlock forest for about a quarter of a mile. The remains of an old railroad engine are rusting away along this portion of the trail, which generally follows the lower part of an abandoned mining tramway which ran from Goulding Harbor to Mine Mountain during active mining in the 1930's.

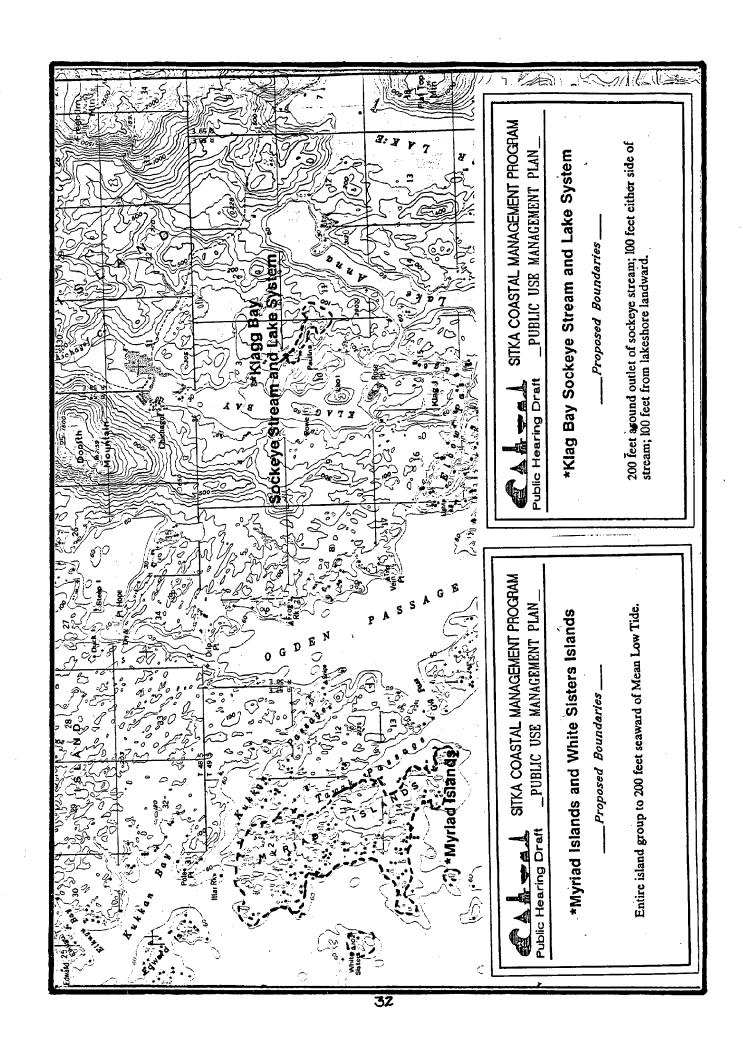
The trail runs across a small muskeg and enters open forest through a small saddle and skirts the northwest side of a marshy lake located about a third of a mile along the trail, then another quarter mile over muskeg and marshy area, where it enters gradually deepening forest and meets the Goulding River after another quarter mile. There is a spectacular waterfall just below the outlet of Goulding Lake, with a good viewpoint here. The trail then crosses a tributary and continues about a fifth of a mile to the outlet of the lowest Goulding Lake. It is a moderate trail with brush, mud, and slippery planking and is difficult to follow in places.

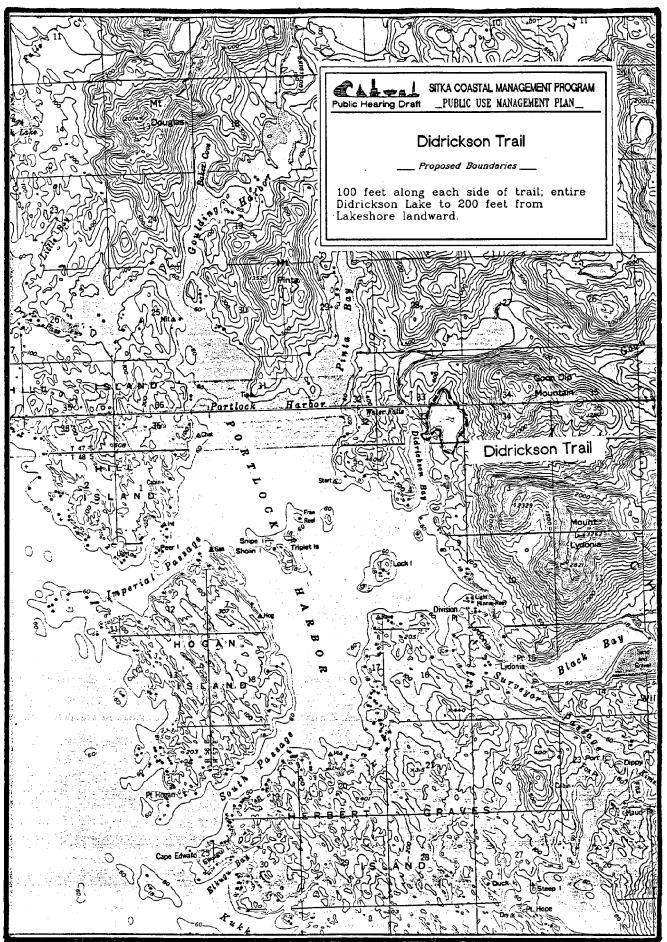
#### Boundaries:

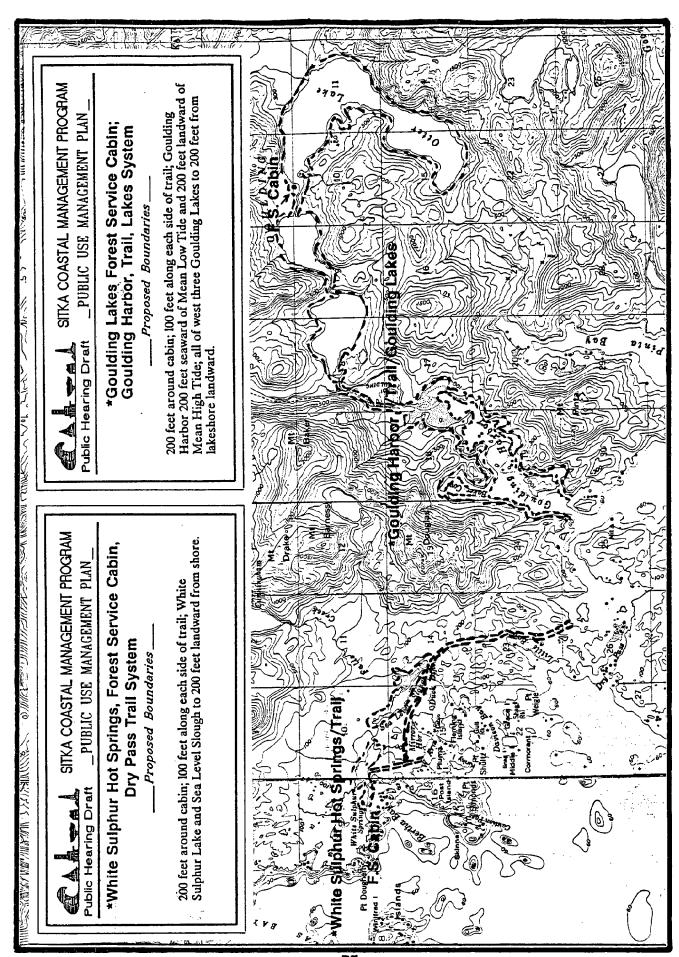
200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of trail; Goulding Harbor 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide and 200 feet landward of Mean High Tide; all of west three Goulding Lakes to 200 feet from lakeshore landward.











# Kadashan Bay

Kook Lake Foreast Service Cabin, Trail to Basket Bay and Kook Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Sitkoh Lake Forest Service Cabins, Trail to Sitkoh Bay, and Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Lisianski River Trail, North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats Moser Island Forest Service Cabin Site, Adjacent Seal Rookery

Patterson Bay Tideflats
Fick Cove
Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts
Ushk Bay

#### EAST CHICHAGOF ISLAND AREA

#### Kadashan Bay

Kadashan Bay is located in south Tenakee Inlet. It is a very shallow bay with huge tideflats and a very productive estuarine system. Both Kadashan River and Tonalite Creek are very big salmon producers, and have coho, pink and chum salmon; and steelhead, dolly varden, and anadromous cutthroat trout. The Forest Sciences Laboratory and Department of Fish and Game have research cabins in the area. There is productive brown bear habitat. There is a large tract of privately owned land at the head of the Bay.

Although Kadashan is a large and productive environment, the uniqueness of this area within the criteria for selection as special management sites has not been established. Therefore, public input is being solicited to determine whether or not Kadashan should be included in the Public Use Management Plan.

#### Boundaries:

Tentative Selection, subject to public input. Boundary subject to public input. Tentative boundary all tidelands to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide and 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide; uplands at head of Bay not under private ownership to 100 foot contour line.

# Kook Lake Forest Service Cabin, Trail to Basket Bay; and Kook Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Kook Lake is a 16x16 foot cabin located on the western shore of Kook Lake, 13 miles southeast of Tenakee Springs on eastern Chichagof Island, just west of Chatham Strait. It is accessible by floatplane. There are cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout in the lake, and from mid-July to mid-August, coho and sockeye salmon fishing. A boat is provided. The trail near the cabin leads to a logging road which parallels the north shore of the lake to the east and connects with a trail to Basket Bay. There is active logging taking place in the Kook Lake area.

The Kook Lake National Forest System Trail starts at the cabin and runs west through about 600 yards of old growth timber. The trail then goes into open country dominated by muskeg for the rest of its 0.7 mile length to the Forest Service Road 7440, which runs about 7 miles to Corner Bay Logging Camp, with a spur road east toward Chatham Strait above the north shore of the lake. An overland hike is required to connect with the Basket Bay trail down to tidewater. The Kook Lake stream cuts through unique subterranean passages close to tidewater which can be explored by skiff. Basket Bay is a heavily used anchorage.

The Kook Lake sockeye run is a major subsistence resource for residents of Sitka, Angoon, and Juneau, and is considered to have a fairly good run.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of trail; 200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet along each side of stream; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward; and entire Basket Bay to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide.

# Sitkoh Lake U.S. Forest Service Cabins, Trail to Sitkoh Bay, Sitkoh Bay, and Sitkoh Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Sitkoh Bay and lake are located in the southeast part of Chichagof Island, about 35 miles northeast of Sitka. Sitkoh Lake has a 16x16 foot cabin, and a second cabin on the north shore of the lake is being added to the recreational cabin system. They are accessible by floatplane or by boat to Sitkoh Bay and a 4.3 mile trail to the cabin. There are cutthroat, dolly varden, steelhead, and salmon in season. A boat is provided.

The 4.3 mile Sitkoh Lake National Forest System Trail begins on the north side of the mouth of Sitkoh Creek, about one-half mile northwest of the former Chatham Cannery, which is on the western shore of Sitkoh Bay. The trail marker is just above the beach. The trail begins through a spruce-hemlock forest and is lined with salmonberry. Toward Sitkoh Lake, the trail crosses muskegs, and in some areas, it is muddy and/or underwater. At the cabin, a spur trail heads northwest about a half a mile to an old logging road.

There is good fishing in Sitkoh Lake and Creek. Sitkoh Creek supports good runs of pink salmon from July to mid-August; sockeye from mid-July to mid-August; and coho salmon from late August through September. The sockeye run, which peaks July 4-10, has been a major system, but runs have declined in recent years. The creek probably has the best spring steelhead run in the Sitka District, generally starting in late April. There is intensive use of Sitkoh Creek and Bay by recreationists, as well as outfitter/guides. Deer and bear hunting is good in the area, and there are numerous connected former logging roads totalling 49.8 miles heavily used by all-terrain vehicles.

The entire Sitkoh Bay area is a highly productive estuarine system, with large tideflats at the head of the bay providing excellent bear habitat, excellent halibut fishing in adjacent Florence Bay, year-round whale watching on near Morris Reef, just off of Sitkoh in Chatham Strait. The Sitkoh Bay area has been identified by subsistence users from throughout Southeast Alaska as a major subsistence site, and there have been strong concerns expressed about maintaining subsistence uses of this area. There was no consensus on whether or not to include Sitkoh Bay in the special management sites, and public input is requested to determine whether or not the Bay should be included and, if so, what boundaries to use.

## Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of trail; 200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet along each side of stream; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward. Inclusion of Sitkoh Bay area subject to public input.

## Lisianski River Trail, North Arm Hoonah Sound Tideflats

The head of North Arm Hoonah Sound is heavily used for recreation and subsistence fishing and hunting. The area has major salmon streams with a large associated estuarine grass flat providing good habitat for bear, waterfowl, and crab. There is an unmaintained trail along Lisianski River to Lisianski Inlet, which lies just outside the District boundaries. The river has productive river bottom soils supporting high timber values, and smelt spawn in the river in the spring.

#### Boundaries:

Entire tideflat area to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide and seaward 200 feet from Mean Low Tide; 100 feet along each side of trail to Coastal District Boundary.

# Moser Island U.S. Forest Service Cabin Site, Adjacent Seal Rookery

The northwest end of Moser Island, at the north end of Hoonah Sound, has been selected as the site for a Forest Service recreational cabin. There is a good small boat anchorage in the bite adjacent to the cabin site, and excellent deer, bear and crab habitat at the northern end of both North and South Arms of Hoonah Sound. The spit to the north connects Moser Island to Chichagof Island, and can be portaged by small boats at very high tides. The whole contiguous beach area from the cabin site around the western point of Moser where an eagle tree is located and around the spit is accessible for beachcombing, hiking and picnicing. Hoonah Sound provides excellent bottomfish and shrimping opportunities, and there is excellent big game hunting throughout the whole north Hoonah Sound area.

The two small rocks in South Hoonah Sound north of Point Reynard provide a haulout and pupping area for around 50 harbor seals, a significant concentration.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide along entire contiguous beach on both sides of spit; small seal rookery islands to south to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide.

#### Patterson Bay Tideflats

Patterson Bay has a large intertidal and estuarine area and has very productive deer and bear habitat. It has an abrupt dropoff to 20 fathoms, providing good dungeness crab fishing and anchorage. Although the head of Patterson Bay is often used by hunters, it may not meet the criteria for uniqueness to be included as a unique site in the Public Use Management Plan. Therefore, public input is requested to determine whether or not it should be included, and if so, what boundaries should be used.

## Boundaries:

Tentative selection, subject to public input. Boundary subject to public input. Tentative boundary tidelands at head of Bay to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide; uplands at head of Bay to 100 foot contour line.

## Fick Cove

Fick Cove is located in South Hoonah Sound southeast of Patterson Bay. It has one of the best protected anchorages in Hoonah Sound and is very heavily used as a year-round anchorage by users of Hoonah Sound. There are accessible beaches and good deer habitat surrounding the Cove. There is a large intertidal and estuarine area, with excellent habitat for deer, bear, and Dungeness Crab. There are Dolly Varden trout in the stream. Because of its small size and good anchorage, boundary includes entire Bay.

#### Boundaries:

Entire Cove, including tideflats, to 200 feet shoreward of Mean High Tide.

## Vixen Islands Seal Haulouts

The rocks around Vixen Islands are considered a significant seal haulout and pupping area. Approximately 75 seals have been counted in this area. There is good fair weather anchorage between Vixen and Emmons Islands, and much picnic/camping activity concentrated in this area.

#### Boundaries:

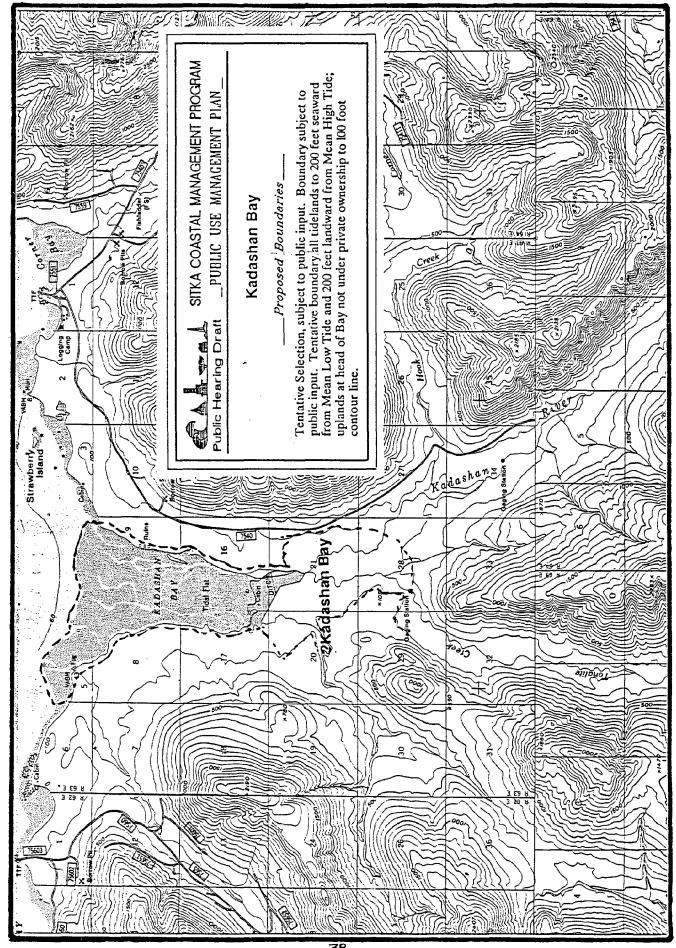
200 feet landward of Mean High Tide to 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide along all seal haulout areas.

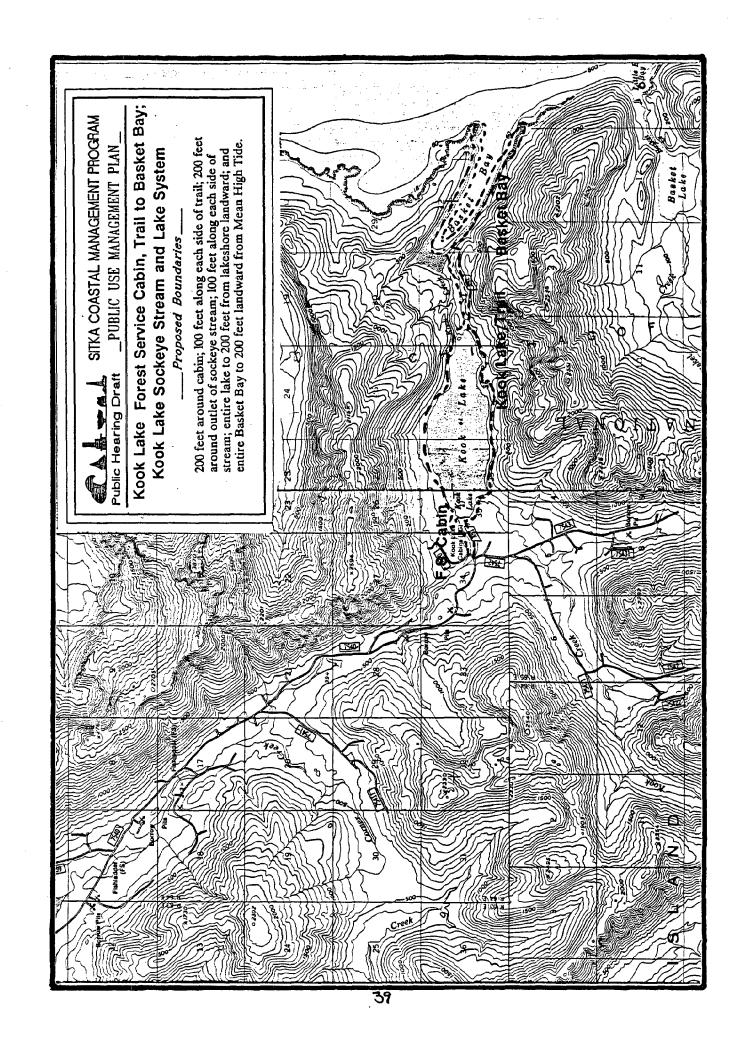
#### Ushk Bay

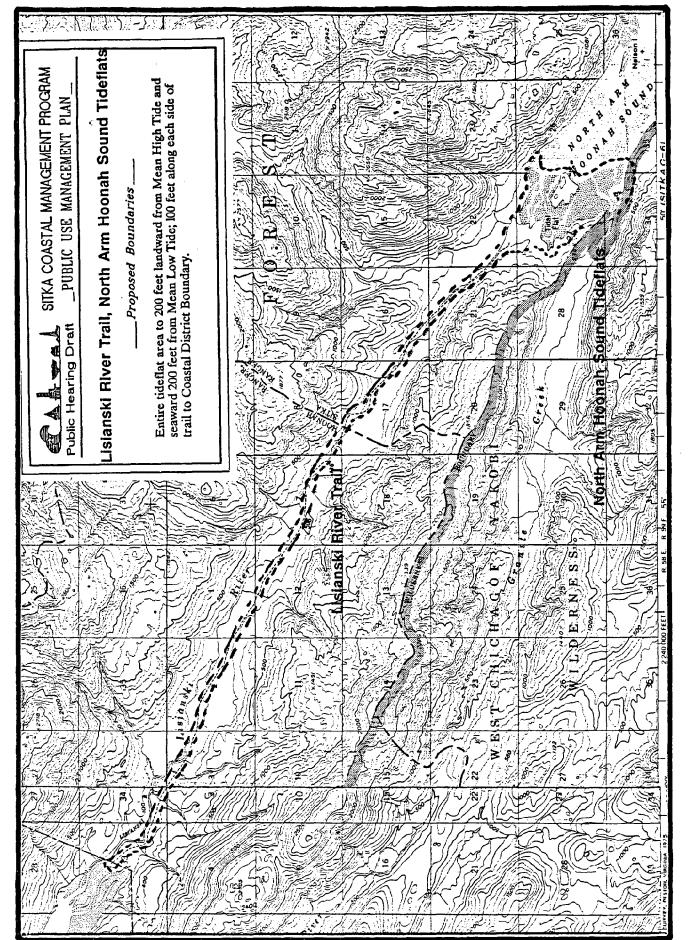
Ushk Bay has a large intertidal area with concentrations of both Dungeness and King Crab and is widely used by recreational boaters. There is a sheltered anchorage behind the peninsula on the north side of the bay, and various places to go ashore for picnics and camping. There is an existing log storage lease which is excluded from the site.

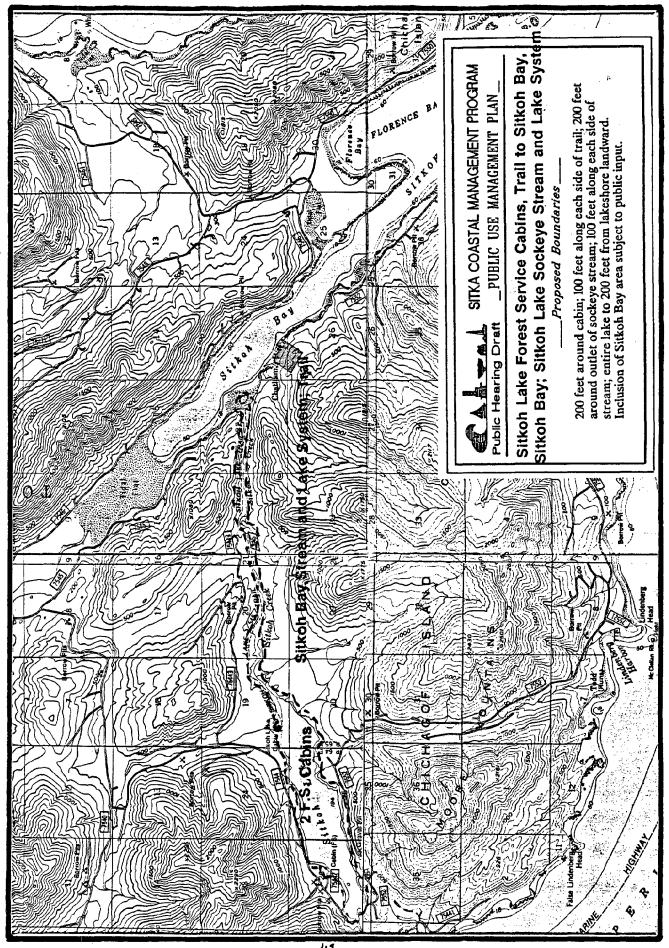
#### Boundaries:

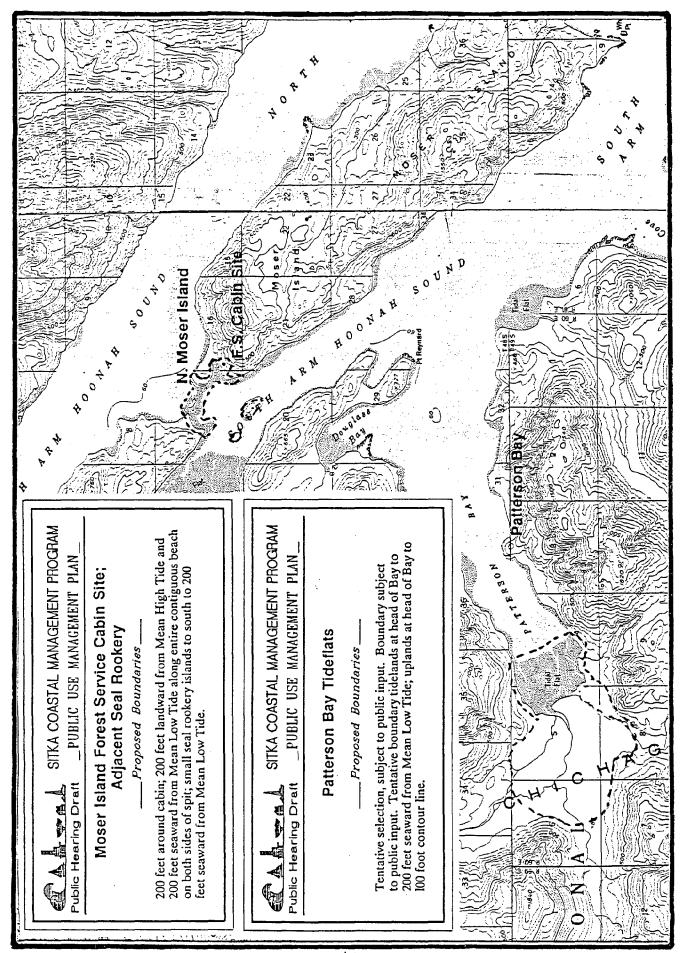
200 feet landward of Mean High Tide and 300 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide along entire bay to land points approximately mid-Bay, except for previously leased log storage areas.

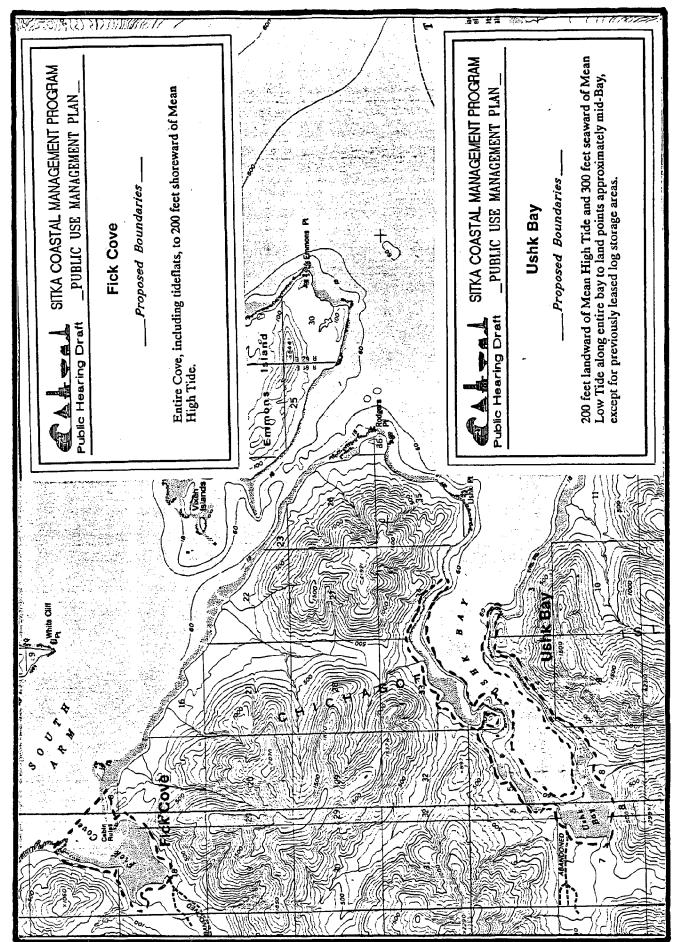


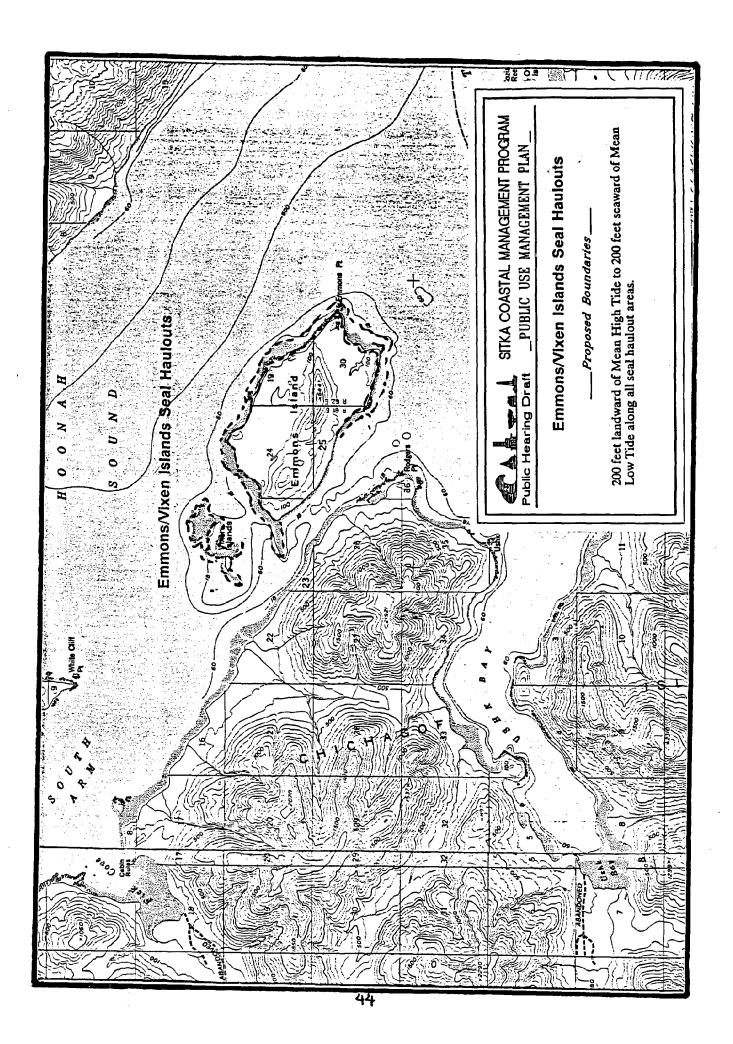












Siginaka Islands
Nakwasina Passage to head of Nakwasina Sound
Fish Bay Hot Springs, Trail
Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park
Lake Eva Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Sockeye Stream
and Lake System

Hanus Bay/Portage, Dead Tree Island Kelp Bay Basin/Pond Island Baranof Warm Springs Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Lake: Sadie Lake Trail

#### NORTH BARANOF ISLAND AREA

#### Siginaka Islands

The Siginaka Islands, which are located in Sitka Sound to the southwest of Lisianski Peninsula, are included as a subsistence harvest area of rare and highly prized herring roe on neh, a type of seaweed. In addition, the Siginakas receive intensive use in the summer by recreational boaters for picnicing and camping, as well as tourboats under Forest Service Special Use Permit. There are several good beaches and anchorages.

#### Boundaries:

Islands to 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide.

## Nakwasina Passage to head of Nakwasina Sound

The Nakwasina Passage and head of Nakwasina Sound area probably receives the most intensive recreational and subsistence hunting and fishing use of any area in the Sitka District due to its productivity and ease of access from Sitka for small "day" boats. There is excellent deer habitat, Dungeness Crab, somewhat protected anchorages, some old growth timber (although the area has been logged), and various campsites. The Forest Service has selected the Allan Point area of Halleck Island as the site for a group cabin. There are beautiful mountain vistas and accessible drainages to walk, fish, and hunt.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet landward from Mean High Tide on both sides of Nakwasina Passage from the point to the west where the passage narrows to the southern contiguous beach south of Allen Point, and all tidelands at head of Nakwasina Sound to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide and 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide, to the east.

## Fish Bay Hot Springs, Trail

Fish Bay is located northwest of Nakwasina along the main "inland passage" route to Sitka. It is included for its hot springs but also receives heavy use for crabbing in the bay, though anchorage is limited. The trail is in poor condition, with some brushing and flagging left by a Forest Service trail reestablishment survey crew in September, 1989, but is difficult to follow in places. It begins at the northeast end of the bay 100 feet west of the old recreational cabin site (ruins and chiminey) at an old trail marker, a large diamond. It follows the tideflats along a side slope through spruce and hemlock timber, breaks out on to the tideflats, and then re-enters the timber and heads slightly southeast for approximately 3 1/2 miles to the hot springs, partially on a former logging road, and through muskeg and former clearcuts, creeks, and some heavy brush. There are a number of springs in a semi-natural state.

The head of Fish Bay is also a large intertidal and estuarine system with excellent habitat for waterfowl, deer, bear, Dungeness and king crab, coho salmon, and halibut.

#### Boundaries:

100 feet on each side of trail to Springs; 200 feet around each spring.

## Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park

Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park consists of 733 acres of islands and relatively flat coastal lands from elevations tidewater to 300 feet, with most of the land below 100 feet. It is located 26 miles north of Sitka to the north of Sergius Narrows at the west entrance to Peril Strait. This is one of the only safe anchorages in the area, adjacent to the only inside boat route to Sitka, and provides protection from winds and trecherous tidal currents. Sitka residents and travellers use the area for fishing, hunting, kayaking, camping, beachcombing, and wildlife viewing. There are several good anchorages and campsites, particularly in Baby Bear Bay. The large intertidal and muskeg area behind Big Bear Bay is excellent habitat for waterfowl and deer. There is also excellent hunting to the north near Range Creek. As a State Marine Park, the area is not subject to timber harvest, and recreation and habitat values will be maintained.

#### Boundaries:

Per Park boundaries, generally along section lines to Yellow Point in the north, encompassing all of Bear and Baby Bear Bays, and to south of Point Siroi.

## Lake Eva Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Lake Eva Disabled Access Cabin is located near the east entrance to Peril Strait on Lake Eva, on the northeast side of Baranof Island about 27 miles northeast of Sitka and is accessible by floatplane. The cabin is 12x14 foot and is the only cabin in the Sitka District with wheelchair access. It has a deck with firepit, picnic table, and fishing platform, and a boat is provided.

Lake Eva has a unique and prolific fish habitat. There are steelhead, Dolly Varden trout, one of the better cutthroat trout populations, coho salmon, pink salmon, chum salmon, and sockeye salmon in season. The lake has a major population of overwintering Dolly Varden and cutthroats from the entire Peril Strait area that run back out to sea in the spring.

The 2.9 mile Lake Eva-Hanus Bay National Forest System Trail begins in west Hanus Bay, on the east side of the Lake Eva outlet stream at a large diamond trail marker. The trail heads west along the south side of the estuary, and then winds along the south side of the Lake Eva outlet stream. This portion of the trail is in a dense Sitka spruce-hemlock forest and offers some fine vistas and good fishing. It follows the south shore of Lake Eva through beautiful old-growth forest. The last half mile of the trail is the most difficult due to windfall and landslides. The trail ends at the old Civilian Conservation Corps shelter, which is in poor condition.

The trail rating is moderate due to wet, muddy and brushy conditions, although the terrain is flat. It does not lead to the Forest Service cabin located on the northwest side of the lake. Because of the heavy brush along the lake, bushwacking to the recreation cabin would be difficult.

The stream supports a small spring run of steelhead, a large fall coho salmon run in addition to year-round cutthroat and Dolly Varden fishing. The sockeye run has always been small, with very few fish. It peaks in early July.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of trail; 200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward and contiguous tidelands at stream and trail outlet to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide.

## Hanus Bay/Portage, Dead Tree Island

Hanus Bay is located just northeast of Lake Eva on the south side of Peril Strait near its junction with Chatham Straits, on the north side of Baranof and Catherine Islands. The bay is a heavily used anchorage, especially behind Dead Tree Island, but it is not protected from all winds. This same area is leased for log storage, and this lease area is excluded from this site. The two islands in the bay are used for camping and picnicing. The Portage area is shallow, productive estuarine system at the southern end of the bay through which one can walk at low tide between Baranof and Catherine Islands to reach Portage Arm of Kelp Bay. An old timber transfer facility has been removed; it is the terminus of an extensive system of logging roads in the area. Hanus Bay is close to active fishing areas on key transportation routes. There are major concentrations of Dungeness crab, bear, and waterfowl in this area. Much of the area is gently sloping, and the area receives high recreation and subsistence use by campers, hikers, and hunters and fishermen.

## Boundaries:

Entire intertidal area through Portage to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide and to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide, excluding existing TTF leased area; Dead Tree Islands to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide, excluding previously leased log storage area.

## Kelp Bay Basin/Pond Island

Pond Island is located in south Kelp Bay, to the south of Catherine Island and west of Chatham Strait. The Basin area is a heavily used year-round anchorage and receives intensive recreation and subsistence use for fish and deer, camping, kayaking, and other activities. It is an anchorage not only for the Pond Island area but other areas of Kelp Bay as well during foul weather. The entire Kelp Bay area is a unique area of abundance of fish, wildlife, and waterfowl due to the excellent intertidal and estuarine as well as uplands habitats. There is a particularly large concentration of deer and bear in the Kelp Bay area. There is a temporary Forest Service special use permit issued to an outfitter/quide for a camp on Pond Island.

#### Boundaries:

Entire Pond Island to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide and contiguous waters to the south to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide, and from South Point to eastern point of Pond Island.

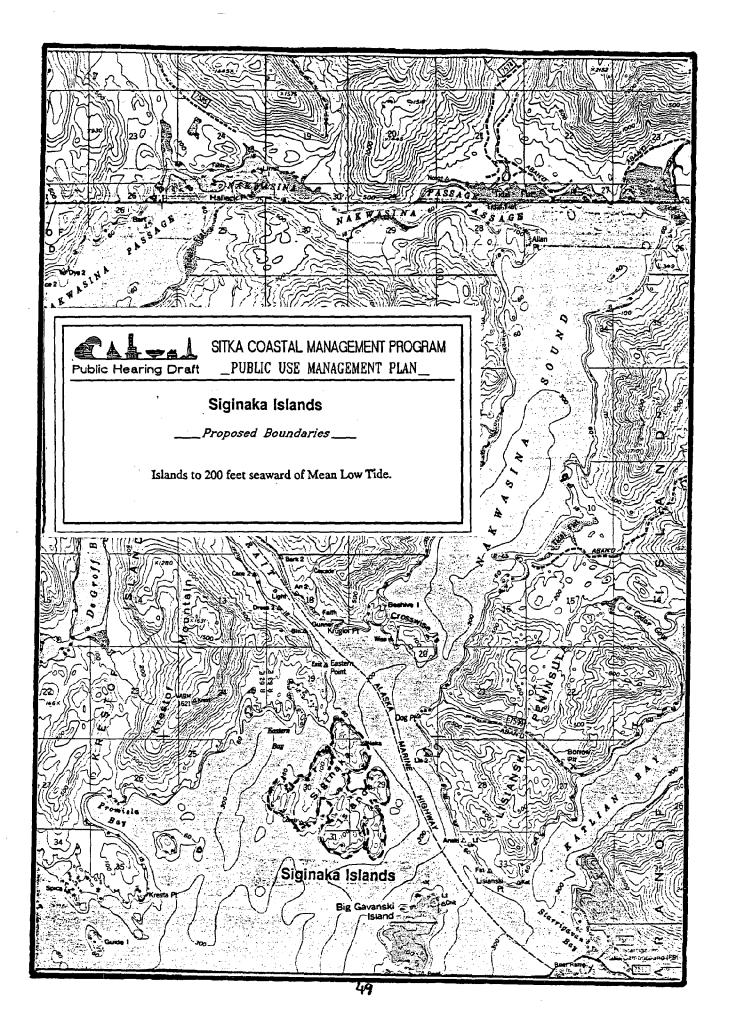
# Baranof Warm Springs Forest Service Cabin, Trail, Lake; Sadie Lake Trail

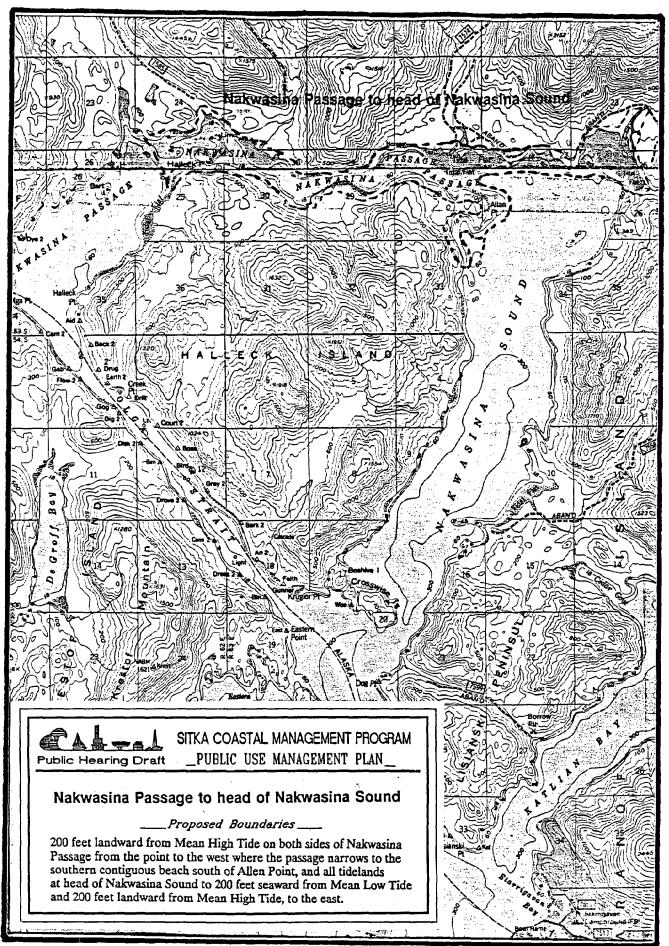
Baranof Lake Cabin is 12 x 14 foot and is located 20 miles east of Sitka on the west shore of Baranof Lake. It is accessible by float plane. There is cutthroat and dolly varden trout fishing, and a boat is provided. There is a privately operated hot springs bath at Warm Springs Bay. There is also beautiful scenery, including views of icefields, and a state dock in Warm Springs Bay that is heavily used year round, especially by fishing vessels.

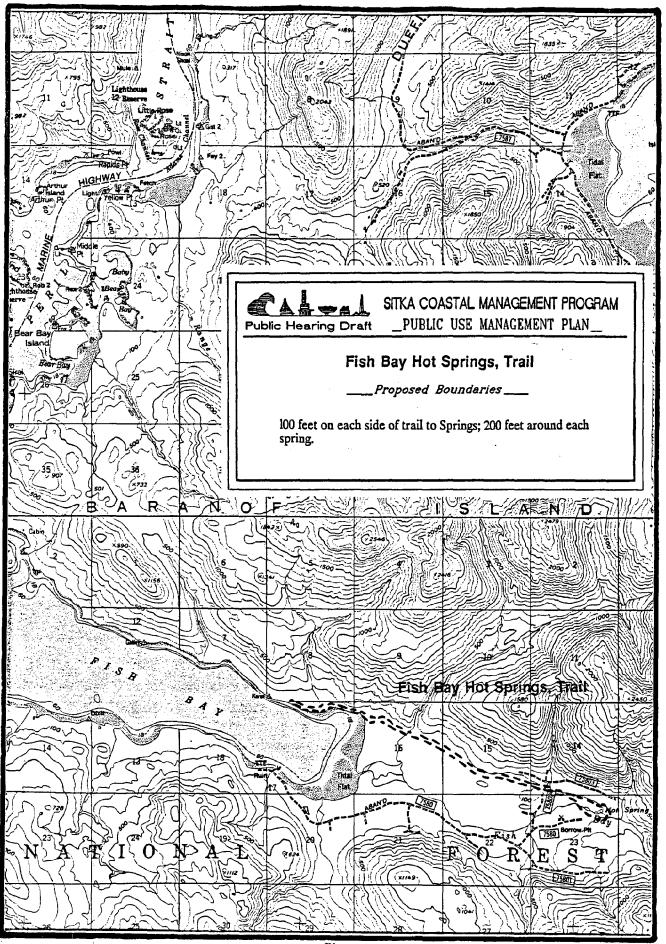
The Sadie Lake National Forest System Trail begins near the Baranof Lake end of the Warm Springs Bay Trail, turning north into an open muskeg area just before arriving at Baranof Lake. Because there is no established trail, a considerable amount of bushwacking is necessary to reach Sadie Lake to the north, and the trail rating is difficult. There is excellent cutthroat trout fishing in both Baranof Lake and Sadie Lake.

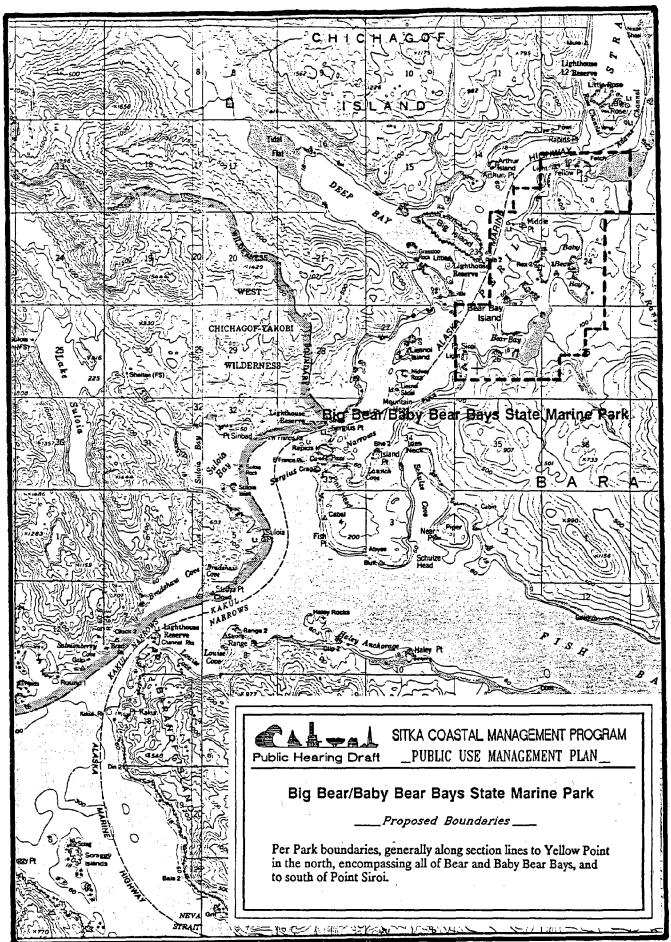
#### Boundaries:

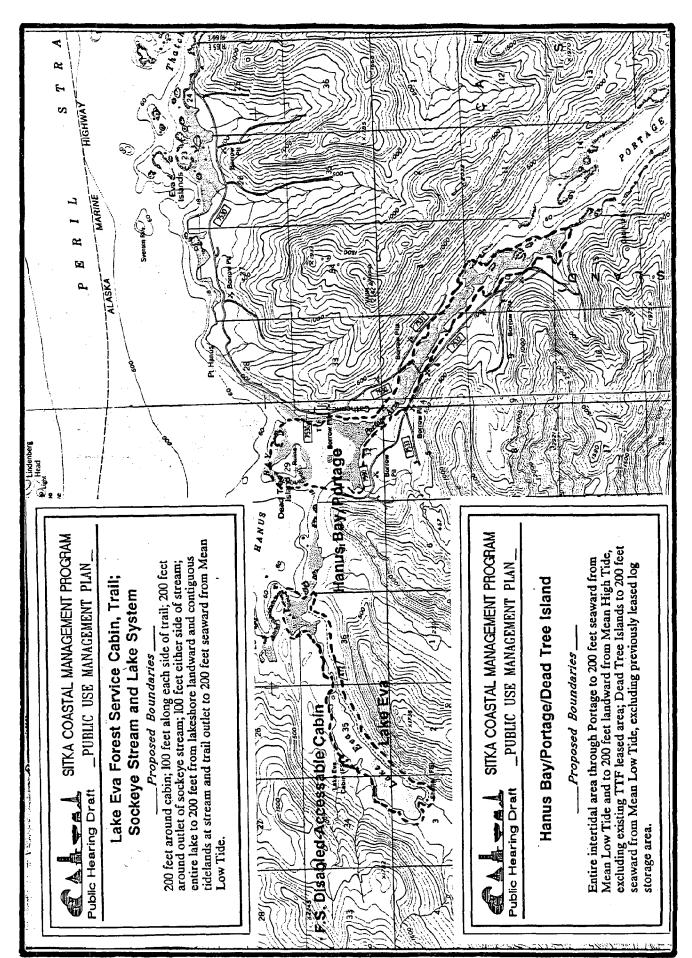
200 feet around cabin; 100 feet along each side of both trails; all of Baranof Warm Springs Lake and Sadie Lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward; eastern portion of Warm Springs Bay to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide (excluding private lands) and 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide as far east as Point Salt on south shore and point west of Manleyville on north shore.

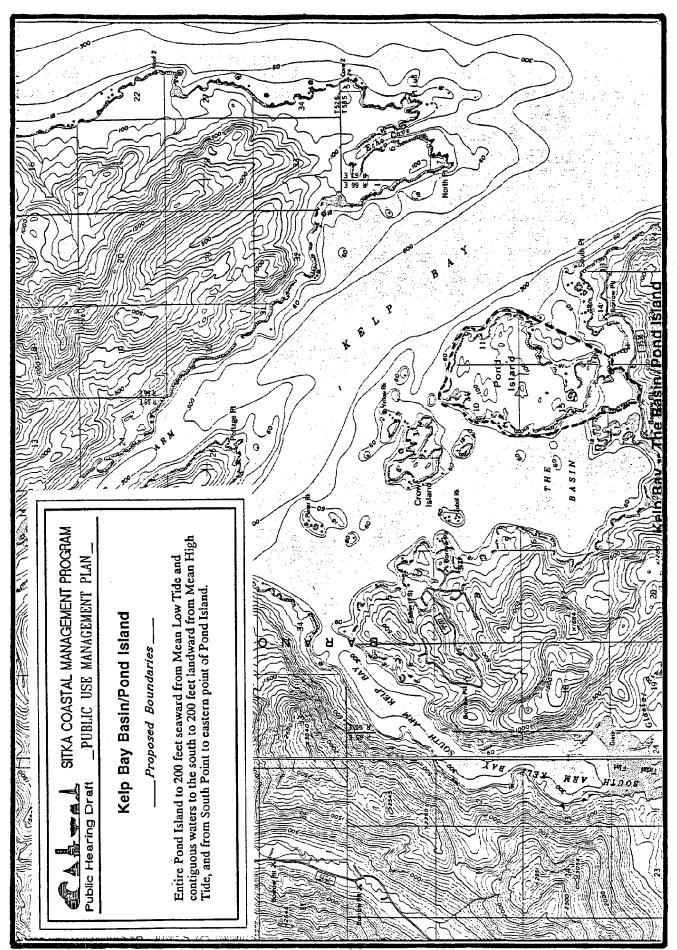


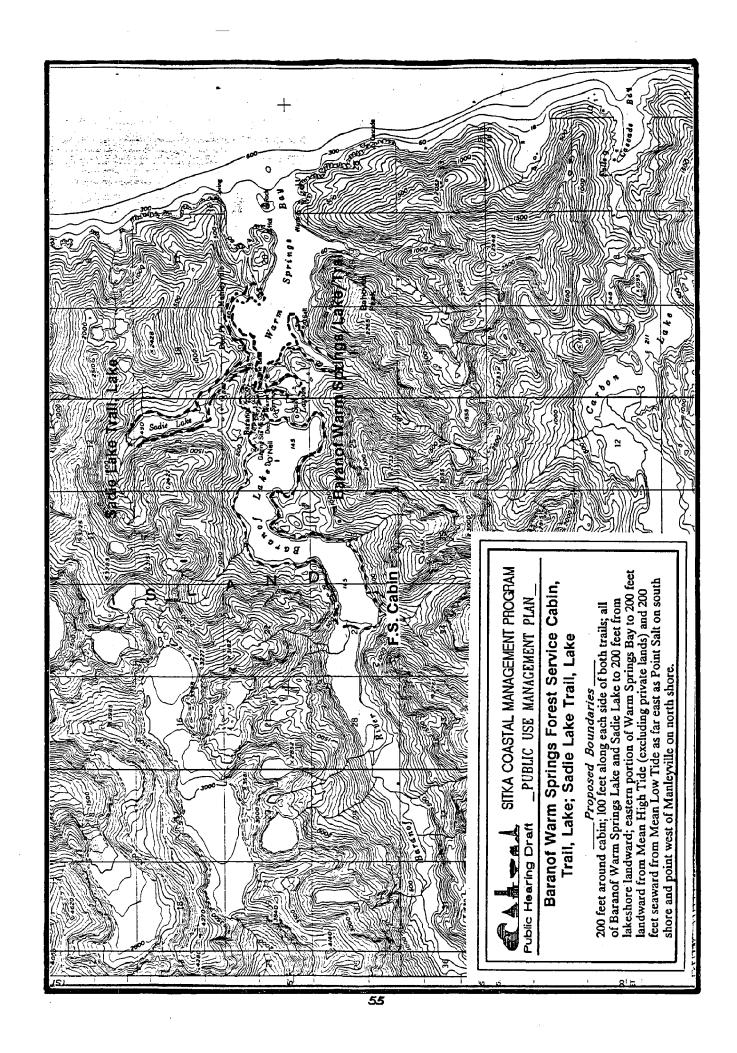












- \* Falls Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System
  Sashin Lake Trail
  Redfish Bay Sockeye Stream and Lake System
- \* Port Banks
- \* Plotnikof Lake Forest Service Cabin
- \* Davidof Lake Forest Service Cabin, Trail
- \* Avoss Lake Forest Service Cabin
- \* Yamani Cove/Islets: Slate Islets and Guibert Islets
- \* Secluded Bay/Benzeman Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Goddard Hot Springs, Kolosh Island, Trail to Redoubt Lake Redoubt Lake Forest Service Cabin; Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Taigud Islands

Kidney Cove

West Redoubt Bay islets

Pirate's Cove, Sam Sing Cove, Three Entrance Bay

Salmon Bay, Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail

### SOUTH BARANOF ISLAND

#### \*Falls Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

The Falls Lake system has a moderate sockeye run of 3,000 to 4,000 fish. For several years, there was an Alaska Department of Fish and Game weir to monitor the run, in conjunction with a lake fertilization program, as well as a fish pass in the stream. This is a very popular subsistence site for sockeye. There is also a coho run. Anchorage at the Falls Lake outlet is limited, and the closest foul weather anchorage is at the head of Red Bluff Bay.

### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; 100 feet from lakeshore landward.

## Sashin Lake Trail

The Sashin Lake National Forest System Trail is 1.7 miles in length and begins at the head of Little Port Walter, about 55 miles southeast of Sitka on the eastern side of Baranof Island. It is accessible by floatplane or boat. The trail starts at the dock in front of the fisheries research station, a large white brick house, and goes southwest along the western shore of Little Port Walter for a quarter mile, past various buildings connected with fish research. It then crosses to the south side of the creek over the fish weir and continues southwest up Sashin Creek through open forests and meadows. The trail crosses back to the north side of the creek after about a mile, and continues to Sashin Lake, ending at the old CCC shelter at the northeast end of the lake. About 1.3 miles from the trailhead is a trail branching to the north, which leads to Round Lake. Although the trail is rated "Moderate" and is easy to follow, it is wet and muddy, and the shelter is in poor condition.

There is good rainbow trout fishing in Sashin Lake and Round Lake, which are excellent producers of rainbow trout transplanted from rearing steelhead in the stream in 1926. These rainbows have subsequently been transplated with good success to many other lakes in the District. There is also a steelhead run in the stream, though the lake is blocked. National Marine Fisheries Service Research Station also has holding pens and has done extensive research on coho and king salmon. Sashin Lake is the water source for the research station, which has a pipeline into the lake.

#### Boundaries:

100 feet along each side of trail; entire Sashin Lake and Round Lake to 200 feet from lakeshores landward.

## Redfish Bay/Tumakof Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

The Redfish Bay sockeye run is one of the largest in the District. Records of escapement in the 1960's and '70's varied between 20,000 and 60,000 fish. The run is lightly fished due to the difficulty of getting

to the Bay, which is located on the southern outer coast of Baranof Island in an area of heavy seas and unprotected shores. The sockeye are large, and the run peaks in late July or early August. This is one of the more productive lake systems and is commercially fished.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; 100 feet from Tumakof lakeshore landward.

#### \*Port Banks

Port Banks has good anchorage near the halibut fishing grounds at the entrance to Whale Bay. The topography around the bay is relatively flat, and there are several good camping areas. Near the head of the bay, the outlet stream from Plotnikof Lake forms a wide, scenic falls into saltwater along a meadow-like intertidal area. There is an excellent coho salmon run up the stream, and the salmon leaping up sections of the falls are very picturesque. There are also steelhead. The area is widely used for anchorage, fishing, camping, sightseeing, and hunting. There is an unmaintained trail along the stream up the valley. While once a good marked trail to Plotnikof Lake, bushwacking would be required now due to slides and blowdowns.

#### Boundaries:

Entire Bay to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide.

#### \*Plotnikof Lake Forest Service Cabin

The Plotnikof Lake Cabin is 12x14 foot and is located on the north end of Plotnikof Lake about 45 miles southeast of Sitka. It is accessible by float plane. It has an oil burning stove (most Forest Service cabin stoves are wood burning). There is rainbow trout fishing, and coho salmon and steelhead in season. A boat is provided. There is good deer hunting. A 1.2 mile trail leads to the south end of Davidof Lake.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward.

## Davidof Lake Forest Service Cabin, Trail

Davidof Lake Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-frame located at the north end of Davidof Lake, about 40 miles southeast of Sitka. It is accessible by floatplane. There are rainbow trout in the lake. A boat is provided. There is good deer hunting.

The 1.2 mile Davidof Lake National Forest System Trail connects Davidof with the north end of Plotnikof Lake. The trail begins in a stand of large Sitka spruce and hemlock and after a few hundred feet it breaks into a brushy meadow where thickets of salmonberry line the trail. The meadow gradually gives way to a wet, grassy muskeg. About a third of a mile ahead the trail enters the forest again and traverses the steep slope along the west side to the stream that connects the lakes. It reaches Davidof Lake just west of the outlet stream where there is a log jam and small marshy area.

The trail rating is "Moderate" and climbs gradually over its length. It is difficult to find the trail near the cabin due to thick brush, and some of the trail is wet and muddy. There is no trail access from the trail end to the Davidof Cabin due to the steep terrain along the lake, which would make bushwacking or trailblazing to the cabin nearly impossible.

### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward; 100 feet along either side of trail.

#### \*Avoss Lake Forest Service Cabin

Avoss Lake Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-frame located 30 miles southeast of Sitka just north of Whale Bay's Great Arm. It is accessible by floatplane. It has an oil rather than wood stove. There are rainbow trout in the lake. A boat is provided. Wildlife includes deer, goats, and brown bear. There is good access to alpine deer hunting.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward.

# \*Yamani Cove/Islets; Slate Islets, Guibert Islets

Yamani Cove and Islets are located on the outer coast of Baranof Island at the north entrance to Necker Bay and provide protected anchorage and camping opportunities adjacent to the open coast. It is a popular anchorage and recreational use area with numerous campsites both on the mainland and on the islets, and there are hiking, hunting and fishing opportunities in the area. The area is both rugged and scenic with accessible beaches.

The Yamani, Slate, and Guibert outer Islets are seal haulout areas.

#### Boundaries:

Entire Yamani Islets group to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide; Yamani Cove to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide; exposed outer Yamani, Slate, and Guibert Islets to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide.

## \*Secluded Bay (off Necker)/Benzeman Lake Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Secluded Bay is located south of Sitka at the head of Necker Bay. The stream runs only a short distance into Benzeman Lake. The Necker Bay sockeye run provides the major subsistence catch for the Sitka area. The fish are very small, averaging 2 1/2 pounds, but runs are productive, and returns range from 20,000 to 40,000 fish. The run peaks July 20-30. There is usually a commercial fishery here once per year.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet either side of stream; 100 feet from lakeshore landward.

#### Goddard Hot Springs, Kolosh Island, Trail to Redoubt Lake

Goddard Hot Springs is located approximately 15 miles south of Sitka, to the east of Biorka Island and Hot Springs Bay. The most sheltered anchorage for users of Goddard Hot Springs is in Kliuchevoi Bay. With the exception of two private parcels in Kliuchevoi Bay, ownership of this entire area is by the City and Borough of Sitka, with a restriction on the deed that the land is to be used for public recreation. The municipality has built two bathhouses for public use, and these receive intensive use in the summer months. There are also other minor thermal springs located 1/2 mile east of the bathhouse area. There is a fairweather anchorage directly in front of the tubs in Hot Springs Bay, and places to camp along the shore. There is also much evidence of prior settlement in the area.

Kolosh Island is approximately 30 acres in size and is located 1/2 mile west northwest of Goddard Hot Springs. There is a knob of 110 foot elevation on its southern end; the rest of the island is relatively flat with several camping areas in open timber and a good gravel/sand beach on the eastern shore. It receives intensive use for camping and beachcombing, often in conjunction with use of the hot springs.

The 1 1/2 mile trail to Marsh Bay in the south end of Redoubt Lake was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930's. The trail starts at the Goddard Hot Springs baths and runs through old growth timber on deteriorated boardwalk to and along the south shore of Kliuchevoi Bay. It cuts through muskeg and scrub timber to the northeast until reaching Marsh Bay. Some signs of the 1,200 acre fire which occurred in the area in 1912 are still visible. The trail is still heavily used, since the elevation gain is only 200 feet.

Thought of as "the playground of Sitka", the Goddard Hot Springs area is one of the most popular recreation areas in central Southeast Alaska. In addition to the hot springs, scenic beauty is the main visitor attraction, but fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting are close behind. The area is reached during good weather by small "day boats" and floatplanes, as well as hundreds of fishing boats which anchor up in the area. There is good bottom fishing in the area, as well as coho, chum and pink salmon as primary salmon species. In some years in April, herring spawn can be observed along the salt water beaches. The uplands are habitat for various bird species along with deer and an occasional brown bear. Most of the topography of the area is level to moderately undulating. Tree cover is primarily hemlock with 25 percent old growth spruce, as well as low lying bushes and muskegs.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around bathhouses and entire Kliuchevoi Bay area, excluding Lots 1 and 2 under private ownership, to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide; Hot Springs Bay area between anchorage seaward from bathhouses and Kolosh Island; entire Kolosh Island to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide; 100 feet along each side of Trail to Redoubt Lake.

## Redoubt Lake Forest Service Cabin and Sockeye Stream and Lake System

Redoubt Lake Cabin is a 16x16 foot A-frame located 10 miles south of Sitka at the north end of Redoubt Lake, an 8 1/2 mile long and 1/2 mile wide lake which was once a salt water inlet, but was sealed off from the sea by slides and glacier action. Access is by floatplane or boat to Silver Bay and 6-mile hike on the Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail. There are rainbow, cutthroat and Dolly Varden trout in the lake, and coho salmon mid-July through September. A boat is provided.

The Redoubt sockeye salmon run has varied widely in recent years, ranging from 400 to 34,000 sockeye (a record in 1989). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has maintained a weir to monitor the run. The lake is being fertilized by the Forest Service in cooperation with Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association and Department of Fish and Game, and it is planned to further build the sockeye run through incubation of fry. The Redoubt sockeye fishery is a major sport as well as subsistence fishery.

#### Boundaries:

200 feet around cabin; entire lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward; 200 feet around outlet of sockeye stream; 100 feet along either side of stream.

#### Taigud Islands

The Taiguds are a very popular picnic and camping destination about 8 miles south of Sitka, due to their sandy beaches, old growth timber with numerous camping sites, tidepools and beachcombing on the outer coasts of the islands, and scenic location. They are sufficiently exposed and isolated from the mainland to have little liklihood of bear, and there are several reasonably good fairweather anchorages for small boats. They receive intensive use in the summer.

## Boundaries:

Entire island group to 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide.

## Kidney Cove

Kidney Cove is the access to the former logging road system on the southwest side of the Pyramid Mountains, about 9 miles south of Sitka and a mile north of the head of Redoubt Bay. It provides access to the road system for all terrain vehicles, which use the road system for hunting and recreation. Anchorage in the Cove is available during some wind conditions for small boats, although underwater logging debris must be avoided to anchor safely.

### Boundaries:

200 feet landward from Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide at road access point.

## West Redoubt Bay Islets

These small, wave battered rocks are used by seals for haulout and pupping.

#### Boundaries:

Islets to 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide.

#### Pirate's Cove, Sam Sing Cove, Three Entrance Bay

Pirate's Cove, Sam Sing Cove, and Three Entrance Bay are all near Povorotni Point about six miles south of Sitka. They are all scenic and are very popular day-use areas for small boats as well as anchorage for numerous fishing vessels and receive especially intensive use in the summer. Three Entrance Bay, south of the Point, has a sandy beach and an abundance of steamer clams and is widely used for picnicing, camping, and hunting. Pirate's Cove is probably the most heavily used group picnic/camping in the entire Sitka area due to its broad sandy beach, timbered camping area, sheltered anchorage, and access by small boats from Sitka even in bad weather. Sam Sing Cove, while less attractive for camping, is the site of the former Forest Service Cabin which was an extremely popular destination prior to its destruction by fire. The Forest Service is now considering rebuilding this facility. There is good anchorage in the Cove even for large vessels, and there are usually fishing boats anchoraged in Sam Sing Cove for the night. There is good access to muskeg and the foothills of the Pyramid Mountains for deer hunting, and there are occasionally bear in the area.

## Boundaries:

Entire Cove and Bay areas to 200 feet landward from Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward of Mean Low Tide.

## Salmon Lake, Salmon Lake-Redoubt Lake Trail

The 5.9 mile Salmon-Lake Redoubt Lake National Forest System Trail begins at the southwest end of Silver Bay, about 10 miles southeast of Sitka. It is accessible by boat or floatplane. There is fair-weather small boat anchorage at the head of Silver Bay. The trailhead is on the east side of the mouth of the Salmon Lake stream, which is the westernmost inlet stream at the head of Silver Bay. The trail goes through forests of Sitka spruce, hemlock and cedar for the first three miles. An estuary is on the west side of the trail for the first quarter mile or so. The trail hugs the east side of the valley for the first mile then follows the eastern shore of Salmon Lake for another mile and continues south along the eastern side of the valley. It crosses several creeks and streams that must be forded. This first section of the trail is relatively flat and forested. At about three miles the trail travels through a series of muskegs and meadows. There are unmaintained trail forks leading to the Lucky Chance Mountain mining areas. During the next half mile the trail re-enters the forest and climbs 500 feet up a narrow saddle to the pass that separates the Salmon Lake drainage from the Redoubt Drainage. The tread is rough in areas; planking is often slick; and there are muddy areas. The pass is about a mile from Redoubt Lake. Heading southwest down the saddle to the lakeshore, it turns abruptly to the east and follows above the shoreline about a half mile through a forested rocky area with lots of slides and

some blowdown. The trail turns southeast onto a Sitka spruce flat for a short distance and ends at the Forest Service recreation cabin located near the lakeshore of Redoubt Lake north of the Redoubt Lake inlet stream.

The trail also provides access to the Lucky Chance Mountain abandoned mining trails. The Trail rating is "Moderate", and there is a steep climb at mile 4. The whole trail is wet and muddy.

There is good fishing in the Salmon Lake area. Salmon Lake has good steelhead fishing in the spring and cutthroat and rainbow trout. There are pink and chum salmon and a remnant sockeye run. It is a productive fish producer, with a large population of overwintering Dolly Varden trout—a major overwintering system. The Sitka Sportsmen have placed a boat on the lake for public use. There is an Alaska Department of Fish and Game research cabin on the lake that is scheduled to be turned over to the Forest Service in 1991 for use as a public recreation cabin.

## Boundaries:

200 feet landward from Mean High Tide and 200 feet seaward from Mean Low Tide along shore contiguous to stream; 100 feet along each side of trail to Redoubt Lake; entire Salmon Lake to 200 feet from lakeshore landward.

